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land of terror inside  
his own mind!





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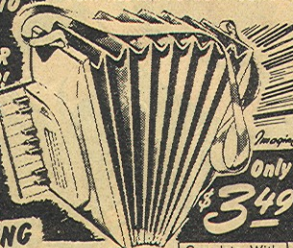
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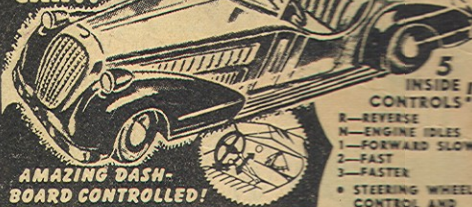
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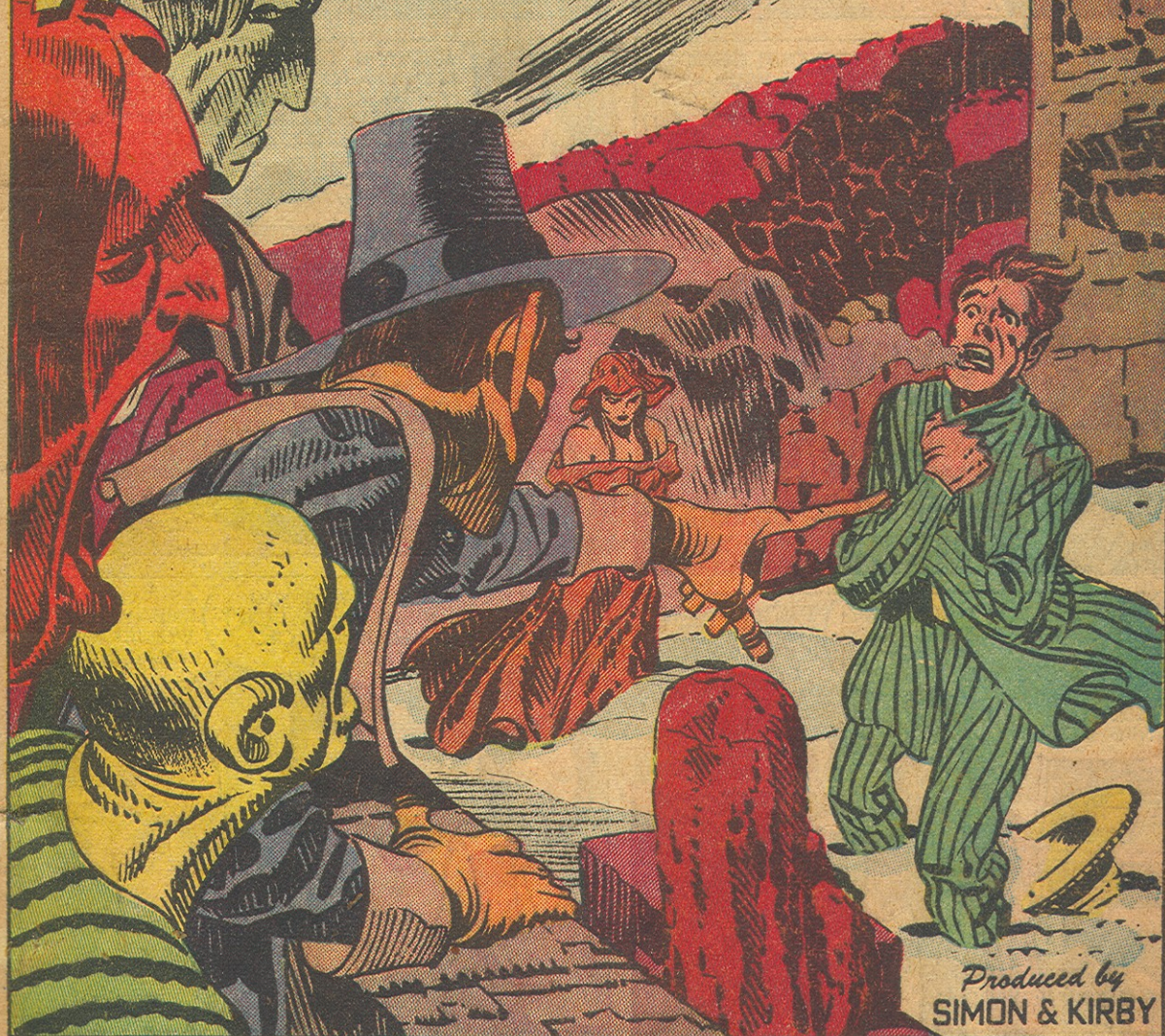
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The picture below, is an actual scene from a nightmare described by a man named Edward Morrow! WHY SHOULD THIS MAN WHO LED A NORMAL, HAPPY LIFE BE TORMENTED NIGHT AFTER NIGHT BY THE HOWLING DEMONS-- THE CLUTCHING HANDS? HE HAD TO FIND THE ANSWER OR BE FOREVER HAUNTED BY---

# The SCORN of the FACELESS PEOPLE!



Produced by  
**SIMON & KIRBY**

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# BLACK MAGIC



HOW DO YOU DO...WE'RE MR. AND MRS. CLARK... --ROBERT AND MARY... WE BELIEVE THE HUMAN MIND CAN TALK--AND IT SPEAKS TO US 'IN PICTURES!'

--ONLY WE CALL THEM DREAMS!

YES, DREAMS--THE LANGUAGE OF THE MIND-- A STRANGE LANGUAGE-- A PUZZLING LANGUAGE WHICH WEAVES ITS MEANING INTO BIZARRE AND DISTURBING FORMS! MARY AND I ARE STUDENTS OF THAT MYSTERIOUS TONGUE... YOU MIGHT EVEN CALL US DREAM DETECTIVES! WE SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF DREAMS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CAUSE TO FEAR THEM!-- PEOPLE LIKE EDWARD MORROW-- VICTIM OF A HORRIBLE AND GROTESQUE NIGHTMARE!



"EDWARD MORROW CAME TO OUR OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1949... HE WAS 42 YEARS OLD, MARRIED AND A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN... YET THIS MAN WAS SEVERELY SHAKEN AND DISTURBED... HE WAS THE VICTIM OF A TERRIBLE RECURRING DREAM..."

IT'S GETTING SO THAT I'M AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP!--AFRAID I'LL RELIVE THAT AWFUL DREAM AGAIN... AND WAKE UP IN A COLD SWEAT!

THAT BAD, EH?



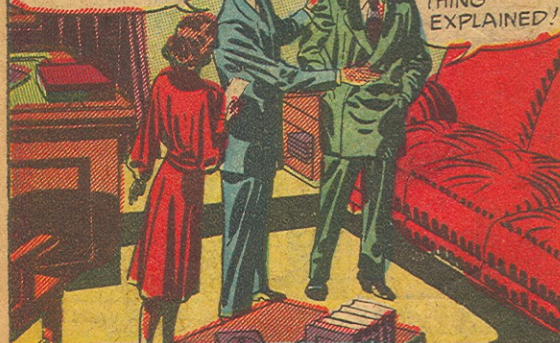
MIND YOU, I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM MY CONSCIENCE! I'VE NEVER COMMITTED A CRIMINAL ACT-- BUT THIS PERSISTING NIGHTMARE--

EXCUSE ME ONE MOMENT, SIR... OH, MARY, COME IN, DEAR, AND BRING A PAD AND A PENCIL!

RIGHT, BOB--

I SUGGEST YOU MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE ON THIS COUCH, MISTER MORROW... MARY AND I WILL TAKE NOTES WHILE YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS DREAM!

I'M NOT SURE THE HORROR OF IT CAN BE FULLY DESCRIBED BUT I'LL DO MY BEST... I WANT THIS THING EXPLAINED!



TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU CAN OF THIS NIGHTMARE...DON'T DISCARD ANY SEQUENCE OR DETAIL, NO MATTER HOW FANTASTIC OR JUMBLED IT SEEMS! PLEASE BEGIN!

AT FIRST, THE DREAMS WERE VAGUE AND CHAOTIC--

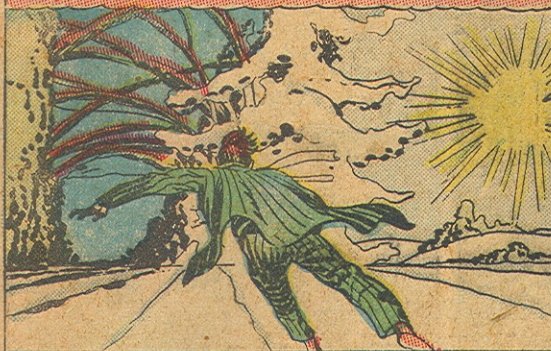




# BLACK MAGIC

"NOTE TO THE  
-READER-  
THE  
NARRATION  
OF THE DREAM  
IS IN EDWARD  
MORROW'S  
OWN WORDS  
AS THEY  
WERE TRANS-  
CRIBED FOR  
THE CLARK  
FILES AND  
EDITED WITH  
OTHER DATA  
FOR FINAL  
ANALYSIS  
AND  
PUBLICATION...

"ONE NIGHT THE DREAM TOOK STRANGE AND VIVID FORM: I TROD A WINTRY SNOW COVERED PATH AND WORE ONLY MY PAJAMAS, AN OUT-MODED CELLULOID COLLAR AND TIE. I CAME TO A CROSSROADS-- ONE SUNLIT-- THE OTHER DARK AS NIGHT... I TOOK THE DARK ROAD!



"THE COLD SEEMED TO BE THE MOST REALISTIC PART OF THE DREAM! I WAS FREEZING-- ALMOST NUMB-- WHEN I CAME UPON THE TOWN... IT WAS AN OLD AND DISMAL TOWN-- ODDLY, COLONIAL IN APPEARANCE!



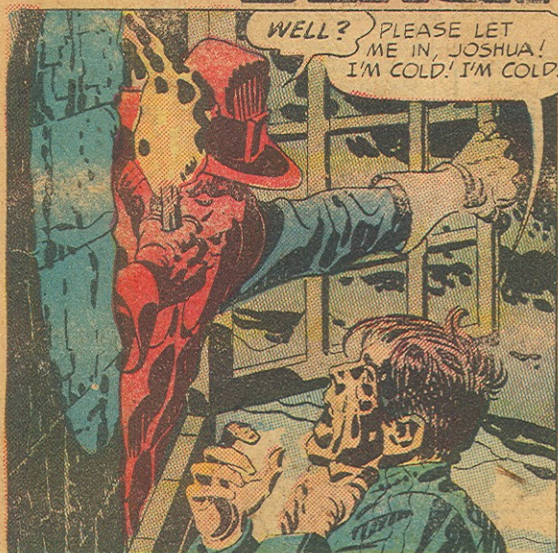
"MY INSIDES SEEMED COATED WITH ICE! I STUMBLED THROUGH THE SNOWDRIFTS TOWARD ONE OF THE HOUSES AND POUNDED DESPERATELY AT THE DOOR...

LET ME IN!  
LET ME IN!





# BLACK MAGIC



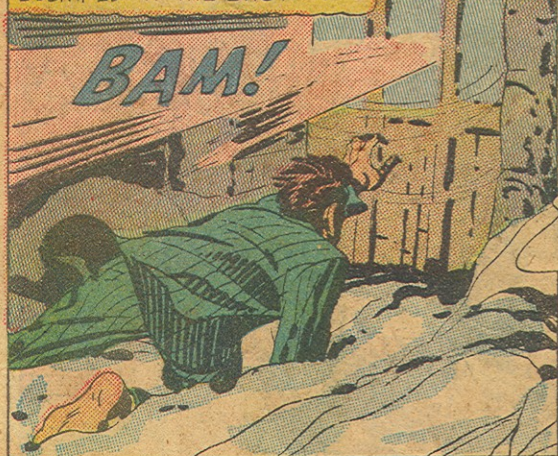
WELL? PLEASE LET ME IN, JOSHUA! I'M COLD! I'M COLD!

"THE MAN FRAMED IN THE OPEN, UPPER HALF OF THE DOOR, WAS DRESSED IN A COSTUME WORN BY THE OLD PURITANS... THE FLAMING TORCH HE HELD SPLASHED HIS HOSTILE FEATURES WITH MACABRE CRIMSON... **IN MY DREAM I KNEW THIS MAN** AND CALLED HIM BY A BIBLICAL NAME! HE WAS WITHOUT MERCY, AND ROARED AT ME!

IT'S NOT THE CUSTOM! I OUGHT TO KILL YOU!



"AFTER THREATENING ME, THE MAN SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT IN MY FACE! AND I SLUMPED IN THE SNOW...



**BAM!**

"I TREMBLED VIOLENTLY IN THE TERRIBLE COLD! THE REALIZATION THAT I WAS GOING TO DIE FILLED ME WITH A DESPAIR THAT WAS INDESCRIBABLY OVERWHELMING! I BEGAN TO CRY! THAT WAS WHEN MY WIFE WAKENED ME... I HAD BEEN MOANING IN MY SLEEP...

ED! ED! WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

EH...? OH... NANCY! NOTHING WRONG, HONEY! GUESS I HAD A NIGHTMARE!



"THE **SECOND DREAM**, WHICH FOLLOWED A FEW NIGHTS LATER, WAS **MORE** FEARSOME AND TERRIFYING... IT WAS AN INSANE BLEND OF DANTE'S INFERNO AND THE OLD SALEM WITCH TRIALS!



HE'S THE MAN!

OF COURSE!

HE WAS THE CAUSE! IT'S HIM, SURE!

HANG HIM!



# BLACK MAGIC

"THERE WAS MOVEMENT, UPROAR, SHIFTING LIGHT--HANDS--MYRIADS OF FINGERS HOLDING FAST--CLAWING AT MY BACK! ATTACHED TO UNSEEN PRESENCES I WAS GLAD I COULD NOT SEE!... THE GARGOYLE FACES OF MY JUDGES WERE TWISTED IN FURY! THEY LEERED AND JEERED AND SHOUTED FOR MY BLOOD... WHAT'S MORE, I FELT I WAS GUILTY OF THE NAMELESS CHARGE AGAINST ME AND PLEADED PITIFULLY FOR MERCY!"

BURN HIM! HE'S GUILTY!

LASH THE HEATHEN!

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!



"THEN, IN A BODY, MY PERSECUTORS BEGAN TO CHANT A PHRASE WHICH RANG WITH EVIL ECHOES IN THE UNDEFINABLE BOUNDARIES OF MY SURROUNDINGS!"

BRING IN THE GIRL!

BRING IN THE GIRL!

BRING IN THE GIRL!

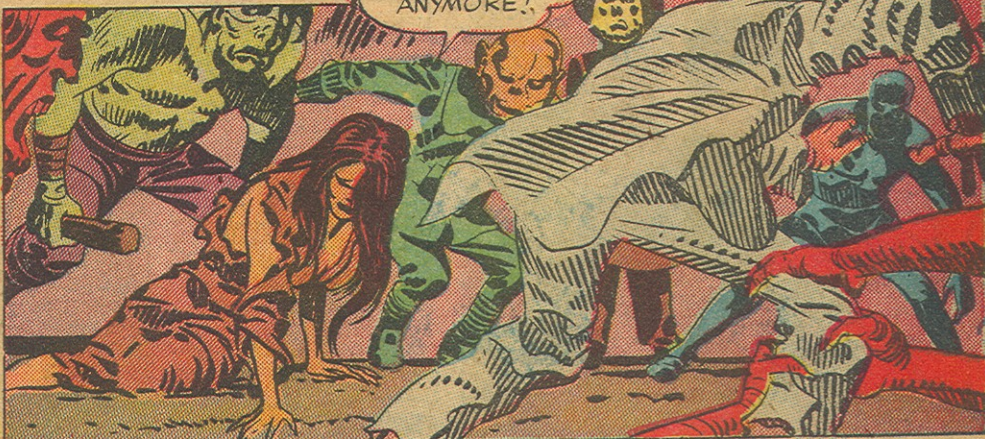
BRING IN THE GIRL!

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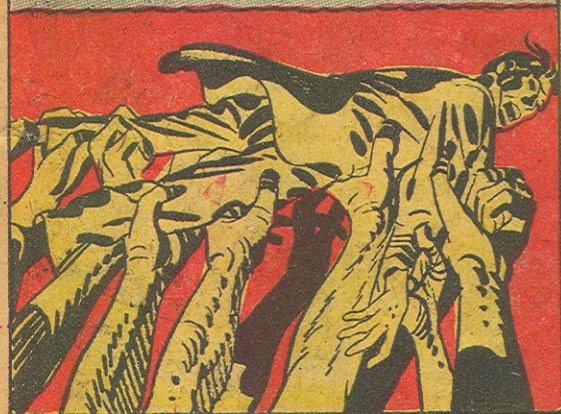


I CONFESS! HE'S THE MAN! DON'T WHIP ME ANYMORE!

"IT WAS A SHRILL WRETCHED WAILING CRY! THE CRY OF THE ABUSED--OF THE PENITENT! THE GIRL WAS LITERALLY HURLED BEFORE ME! SHE WAS HURT... AND HER SCREAMING ADDED TO THE BEDLAM! I SHRANK FROM HER!"

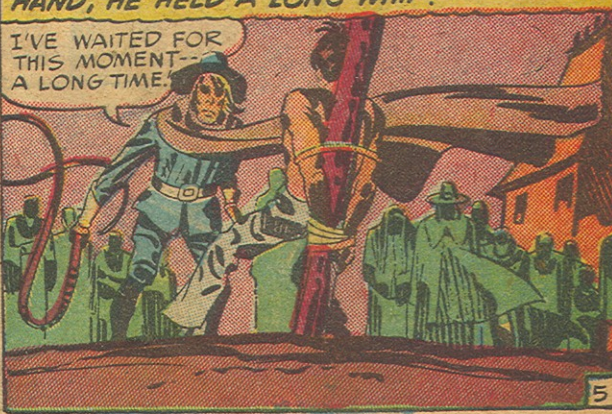


"THE GIRL'S ACCUSATION DREW A CONCERTED HOWL OF TRIUMPH FROM THE GROTESQUE ASSEMBLAGE! I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF BORNE ALOFT BY A HOST OF ARMS AND HURRIED OFF IN THE ENSUING CHAOS!"



"I WAS BOUND TO A POST AND STRIPPED TO THE WAIST IN THE SNOW! THE TERRIBLE COLD TORE AT ME LIKE SHARP CLAWS... A MAN DETACHED HIMSELF FROM THE GHOULISH CROWD! HE WALKED MENACINGLY TOWARD ME... IN ONE HAND, HE HELD A LONG WHIP!"

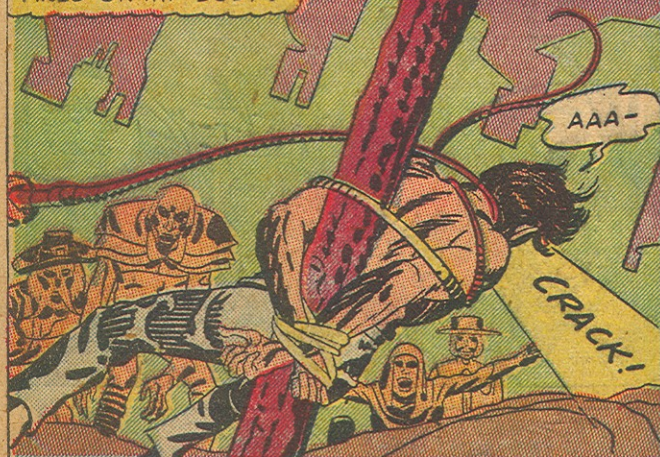
I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT--A LONG TIME.





# BLACK MAGIC

"ALTHOUGH, I SENSED THROUGHOUT THAT THIS WAS A DREAM, I WAS UNABLE TO WILL MYSELF OUT OF THIS GHASTLY PREDICAMENT! I WAS TRAPPED IN A HELLISH LITTLE CORNER OF MY BRAIN-- ABLE TO SEE THE LASH SNAKE INTO THE AIR-- HEAR THE GRIM WHISTLE OF ITS DESCENT-- AND FEEL ITS AGONIZING FIRES ON MY BODY!"



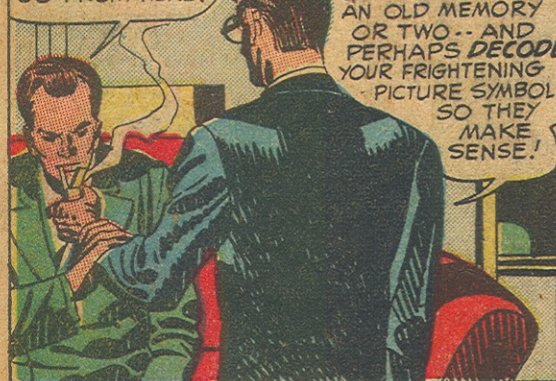
SIXTEEN LASHES! ALWAYS SIXTEEN LASHES! I COUNTED THEM BETWEEN MY CLENCHED TEETH IN EVERY ONE OF THE DREAMS THAT FOLLOWED! WHAT IN HEAVEN CAN THEY MEAN? HOW CAN I GET RID OF THEM?

I SUPPOSE THE REST OF THE NIGHTMARES HAD THE SAME PERSECUTION THEME WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS-- IS THAT RIGHT, SIR?



YES THEY DID... WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WELL, WE'RE GOING TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS-- STIR AN OLD MEMORY OR TWO-- AND PERHAPS DECODE YOUR FRIGHTENING PICTURE SYMBOLS SO THEY MAKE SENSE!

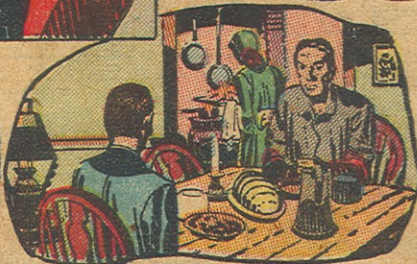


## REPORT TO THE READER BEFORE FINAL ANALYSIS

THE DREAM DETECTIVE HAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT JOB! HE CANNOT HUNT THE TRUTH IN MATERIAL THINGS... HE MUST SEARCH IN THE DARK CORRIDORS OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND, WADE THROUGH THE COBWEBS OF VAGUE MEMORIES--AIDED ONLY BY THE DESCRIPTION OF NONEXISTENT IMAGES... YET THESE DREAM IMAGES CONTAIN IMPORTANT CLUES WHICH POINT THE WAY TO ANALYSIS... THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CLUES WHICH MARY AND I SINGLED OUT FROM THE PICTURE PUZZLE OF EDWARD MORROW'S DREAM...



1-THE CELLULOID COLLAR AND THE STRAW HAT--FASHIONS LONG AGO OUTMODED--



2- THE MEDIEVAL, COLONIAL, BIBLICAL TOUCHES DOMINATING THE DREAM'S SOMBER ATMOSPHERE.



3-THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE MORROW SHELTER.



4- THE GIRL WHO ACCUSED HIM.



5- THE MAN WHO WHIPPED HIM!



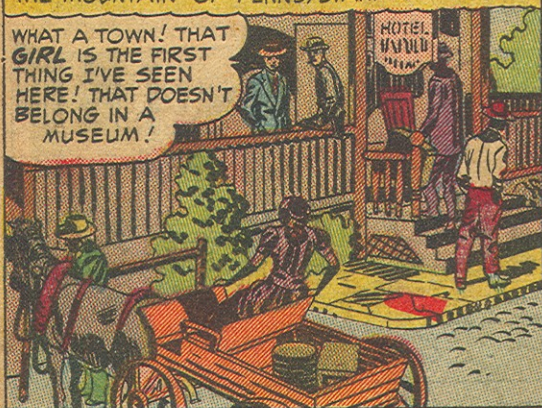
6- MORROW'S ACCEPTANCE OF GUILT!



# BLACK MAGIC

"SPARKED BY THESE CLUES, OUR INVESTIGATION EVENTUALLY DISCLOSED THE INCIDENT IN EDWARD MORROW'S LIFE UPON WHICH WE BASED OUR FINAL ANALYSIS OF HIS DREAM... IN 1927, EDWARD MORROW, THEN A SALESMAN OF FARM MACHINERY, STOPPED IN A LITTLE TOWN IN THE MOUNTAIN OF PENNSYLVANIA...

WHAT A TOWN! THAT GIRL IS THE FIRST THING I'VE SEEN HERE! THAT DOESN'T BELONG IN A MUSEUM!



IF YOU FIGURE ON DOING ANY SELLING IN THESE TOWNS, MORROW, WISE UP NOW! THESE PEOPLE WON'T BUY IF THEY DON'T LIKE YOU! AND THEY'RE MIGHTY TOUCHY ABOUT THEIR WOMEN-FOLK!

SHE SURE IS A PRETTY KID! KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER?



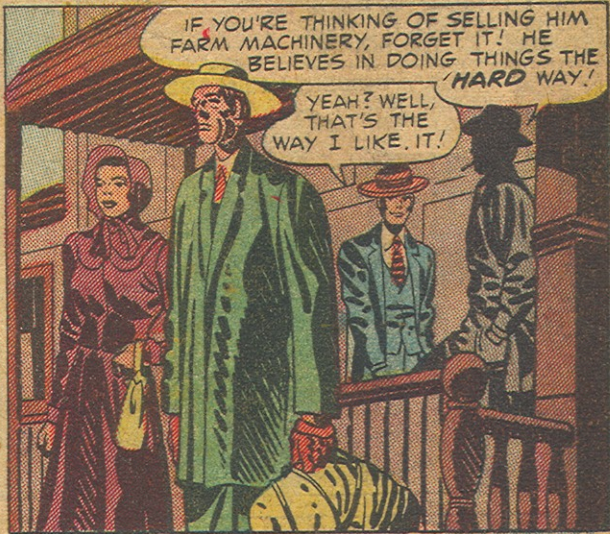
SURE... THE OLD MAN'S HERMAN HILLMAN... SHE'S HIS DAUGHTER! THE OLD BOY'S GOT THE BIGGEST FARM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! HONEST, BUT TOUGH AS NAILS!

FARMER, EH? MAYBE I CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!



IF YOU'RE THINKING OF SELLING HIM FARM MACHINERY, FORGET IT! HE BELIEVES IN DOING THINGS THE 'HARD WAY!

YEAH? WELL, THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT!



"THE NEXT DAY, YOUNG ED MORROW HIRED A RIG AND RODE OUT TO THE HILLMAN FARM... ED LOOKED PECULIARLY OUT OF PLACE, STANDING THERE IN HIS CITY CLOTHES! BUT HE WAS NOT THE TYPE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

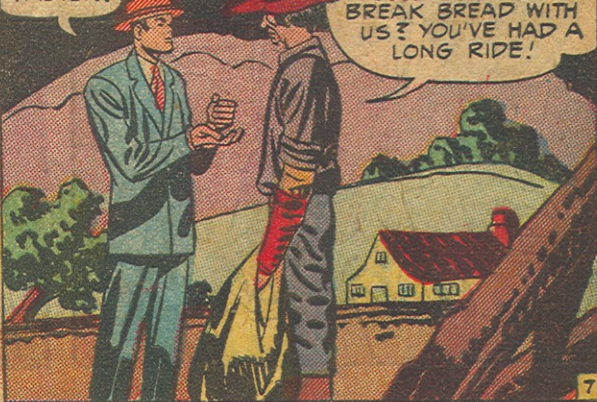
NO, MISTER MORROW... WE WERE MEANT TO USE OUR HANDS—NOT MACHINES! ELSE WHY WERE WE GIVEN THEM?

BUT THAT KIND OF THINKING WON'T INCREASE YOUR PROFITS!



WHY, ONE OF OUR THRESHERS WILL DO THE WORK OF FIFTY MEN-- DO IT CHEAPER AND FASTER!

WE ARE CONTENT WITH THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS HERE, MISTER MORROW!... IT IS TIME TO EAT! PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BREAK BREAD WITH US? YOU'VE HAD A LONG RIDE!





# BLACK MAGIC

"ED MORROW ACCEPTED THE INVITATION! THE HILLMAN HOME WAS SPOTLESSLY CLEAN! BUT ALMOST EMPTY IN ITS **SEVERITY**! IT WAS THE HOME OF PIOUS, HARD WORKING PEOPLE OF STRONG FAITH AND CHARACTER...

AREN'T WE GOING TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR DAUGHTER JOINS US?

IT IS NOT THE CUSTOM! SHALL WE SAY GRACE--



"THE MEAL WAS EATEN IN SILENCE! IT WAS ANOTHER CUSTOM OF THESE PEOPLE... THE YOUNG SALESMAN REPRESENTING A LESS RESTRICTED WAY OF LIFE WAS NOT WON OVER BY HERMAN HILLMAN'S PRINCIPLES! HOWEVER, THE DAUGHTER, ELIZABETH WAS ANOTHER MATTER...

YOU ARE **RETURNING** TO TOWN, MISTER MORROW?

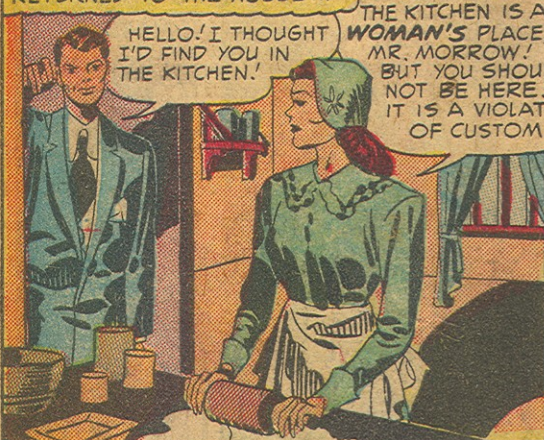
MIGHT AS WELL! MY RIG'S AT YOUR STABLE! GOOD-BYE, SIR! THANKS FOR THE LUNCH!



"BUT MORROW DID **NOT** GO BACK TO TOWN... HE WAITED NEAR HIS RIG UNTIL THE OLD MAN VANISHED ACROSS THE FIELDS--THEN MORROW RETURNED TO THE HOUSE...

HELLO! I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU IN THE KITCHEN!

THE KITCHEN IS A **WOMAN'S** PLACE, MR. MORROW! BUT YOU SHOULD NOT BE HERE! IT IS A VIOLATION OF CUSTOM!



SEEMS LIKE CUSTOM IS THE RULE FOR **EVERYTHING** HERE! DON'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU **WANT** TO?

HAVE YOU **FINISHED** YOUR BUSINESS WITH MY FATHER, MISTER MORROW?



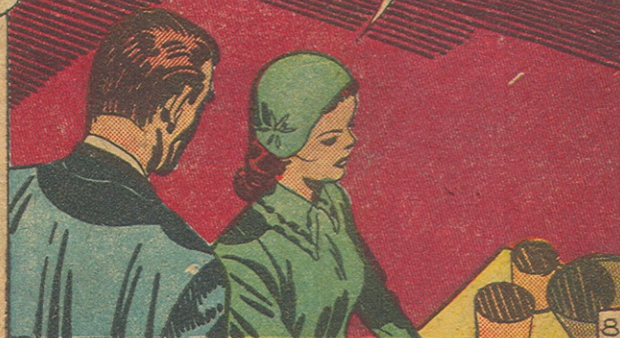
I DIDN'T MAKE OUT VERY WELL WITH YOUR POP! HOWEVER, I CAME BACK--TO FIND OUT HOW MY CHANCES WERE WITH **YOU!**

YOU MUST NOT SAY SUCH THINGS! WE ARE STRANGERS!



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE? DON'T THE MEN AROUND PAY YOU ANY COMPLIMENTS? THEY SURE **OUGHT** TO!

OUR MEN DO NOT PAY COMPLIMENTS! WHEN IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BE MARRIED, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE--BY MY FATHER! **THEN**, I MAY EXPECT COMPLIMENTS!





# BLACK

# MAGIC

"ED MORROW WAS YOUNG, AND UNMINDFUL OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF OTHERS... HE **KNEW** THE TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS, STRICT AS THEY MAY HAVE BEEN, WERE STILL PART OF THE CODE THIS GIRL LIVED BY AND DEEPLY ROOTED IN HER SENSE OF HONOR! **YET HE RELENTLESSLY PRESSED HIS ATTENTIONS ON ELIZABETH HILLMAN UNTIL SHE WAVERED!**"

OH, COME ON, HONEY! SOFTEN UP! CUSTOMS OKAY IN ITS PLACE! BUT HOW ABOUT LAUGHS AND GOOD TIMES? **THEY'RE IN THE BOOK, TOO, YOU KNOW!**

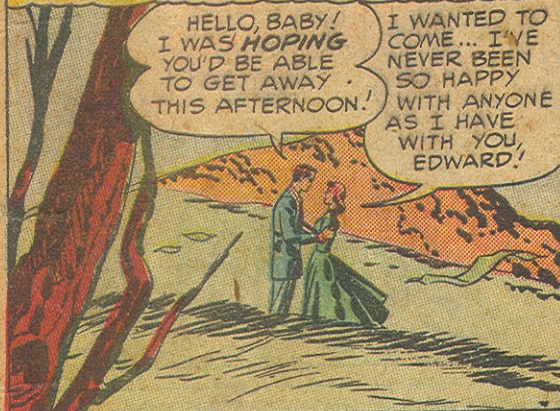
YOU ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER MEN I KNOW! THEY WOULD NEVER **DARE** TO BE SO **BOLD!**



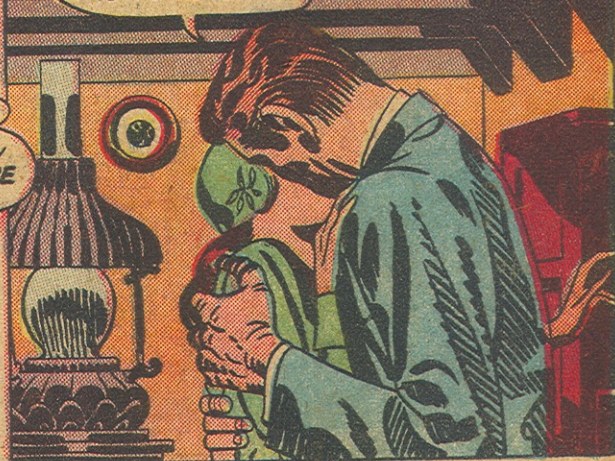
"THE GIRL WAS SMITTEN WITH MORROW... HIS SMOOTH WAYS WERE FASCINATING TO HER... AND SHE NEVER QUESTIONED HIS INTENTIONS — NEVER DOUBTED HIS SINCERITY... SHE STOLE AWAY MANY TIMES TO BE WITH HIM!"

HELLO, BABY! I WAS **HOPING** YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET AWAY THIS AFTERNOON!

I WANTED TO COME... I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY WITH ANYONE AS I HAVE WITH YOU, EDWARD!

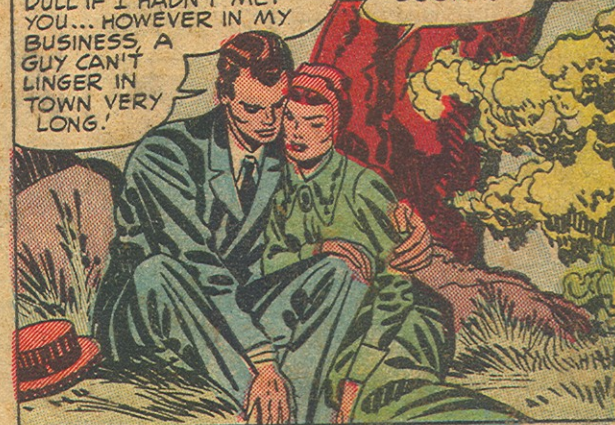


I CAN BE EVEN **BOLDER**, ELIZABETH... BECAUSE I THINK YOU'D **LIKE** THAT! I THINK YOU **WANT** TO BE KISSED... TO BE LOVED...



THAT'S GREAT, ELIZABETH... YOU'RE A WONDERFUL GIRL! MY STAY HERE WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DULL IF I HADN'T MET YOU... HOWEVER IN MY BUSINESS, A GUY CAN'T LINGER IN TOWN VERY LONG!

I KNOW, EDWARD... IT HAS BEEN IN MY MIND THAT YOU WOULD BE LEAVING SOON...



EDWARD-- **TAKE ME WITH YOU!** ALL MY LIFE I'VE WAITED FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO COME ALONG AND TAKE ME WITH HIM TO ALL THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE!

WELL--GOSH, BABY--I--I SURE WOULD LIKE TO--BUT--



BUT YOU HAVE SAID YOU LOVED ME, EDWARD! WE COULD BE MARRIED AND RUN OFF TOGETHER... THIS WOULD BE **RIGHT**... WE ARE IN LOVE! IS THIS NOT SO?

YEAH-- YEAH-- SURE --





# BLACK MAGIC



OH, EDWARD! LET'S LEAVE TONIGHT! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE OLD MILL POND! WE CAN BE MARRIED AND ON OUR WAY BY DAWN...

OKAY... IF NOTHING GOES WRONG, I'LL MEET YOU AT ELEVEN SHARP... WE'D BETTER GO BACK NOW OR YOUR OLD MAN WILL BEGIN TO SUSPECT!

"EDWARD MORROW NEVER KEPT THAT RENDEZVOUS. HE NEVER SAW ELIZABETH HILLMAN AGAIN... MORROW HAD PACKED HURRIEDLY AND WAS ENROUTE TO ANOTHER STATE BY THE FOLLOWING DAWN. TWO YEARS LATER, DURING A CHANCE MEETING WITH A SALESMAN HE KNEW, MORROW LEARNED OF THE RESULTS OF THE ALREADY HALF FORGOTTEN ESCAPE...



SAY I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE WE WERE BOTH IN THAT LITTLE TOWN... WHAT'S ITS NAME? YOU KNOW... WHERE YOU TRIED TO SELL A TRACTOR TO THAT ELIZABETH HILLMAN'S OLD MAN!

OH, YES! I REMEMBER HER... NICE KID, THE OLD MAN WAS A REAL PURITAN!



I GUESS THAT'S WHY HE WOUND UP IN JAIL... TOO STRICT IN HIS WAYS... HE FOUND OUT HIS DAUGHTER HAD BEEN RUNNING AROUND WITH A MAN! THE OLD MAN TOOK A WHIP TO HER - BEAT HER SO BAD SHE WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL!

GREAT SCOTT! D-DID THEY EVER FIND OUT WHO THE GIRL WAS DATING?



NO. THE GIRL NEVER DID TALK! SAY! ANYTHING WRONG? YOU LOOK SICK, MORROW!

I-I DON'T FEEL GOOD. GUESS I'D BETTER GO NOW... SEE YOU AROUND, COLBY!

"EDWARD MORROW LEFT THAT DAY... HIS HEART, HEAVY WITH GUILT... AND THAT GUILT REMAINED IN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND... UNTIL IT WAS RELEASED IN HIS DREAMS MANY YEARS LATER...



THE PATTERN OF PAST WAS IN ALL OF THE DREAMS... THE OUTMODED CELLULOID COLLAR THAT MORROW WORE WAS ONE OF THE LINKS... THE BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL IMAGES, OF COURSE REFLECTED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE REAL INCIDENT!

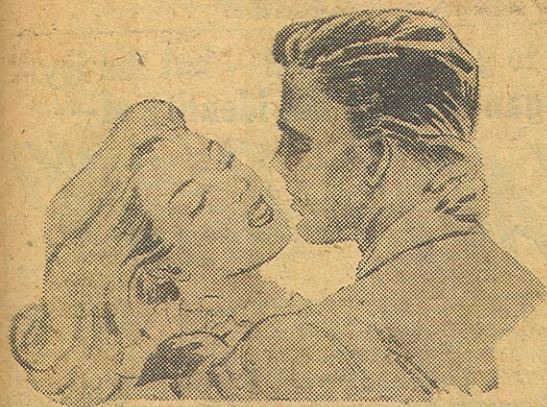
YES, AND THE SIXTEEN LASHES REPRESENTED THE EXACT NUMBER OF DAYS THAT MORROW KNEW ELIZABETH HILLMAN!

EVERY IMAGE MEANT SOMETHING - SAID SOMETHING. THE LASH - THE FREEZING COLD... SYMBOLIC OF THE SPARTAN, BARREN EXISTENCE LED BY ELIZABETH HILLMAN AND



THE DISRUPTION OF THAT LIFE BY THE INTRUDER, EDWARD MORROW! THIS MAN WILL EVENTUALLY FIND PEACE IN EVERYDAY CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS... IT IS TOWARD THAT END THAT HIS SUBCONSCIOUS IS DRIVING HIM!





**It's EASY**  
to  
**Win Him!**

**... when You Know How!**

**READ for YOURSELF!**

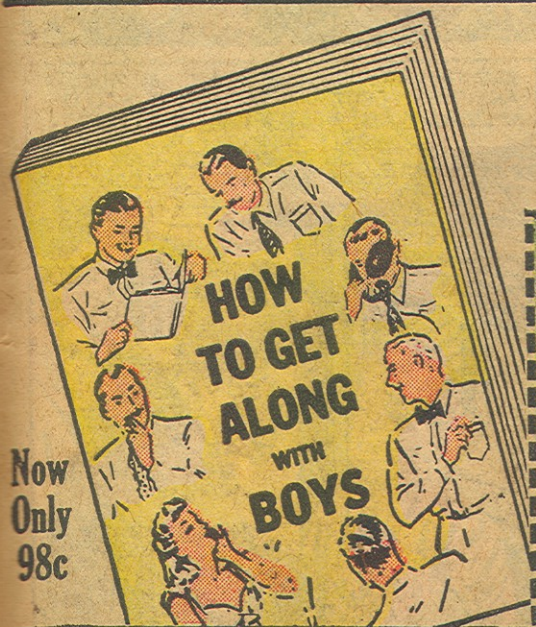
- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| How To Get Him To Date You         | How To Improve Your Conversation |
| How To Make Him Enjoy Your Company | How To Keep Him Guessing         |
| How To Interest Him In You         | How To Become His "One and Only" |
| How To Have Personality            | How To "Make Up" With Him        |
| How To Overcome Inferiority        | How To Keep His Love When Apart  |
| How To Be Well-Mannered            | How To Get Him To Propose        |
| How Not To Offend Him              |                                  |

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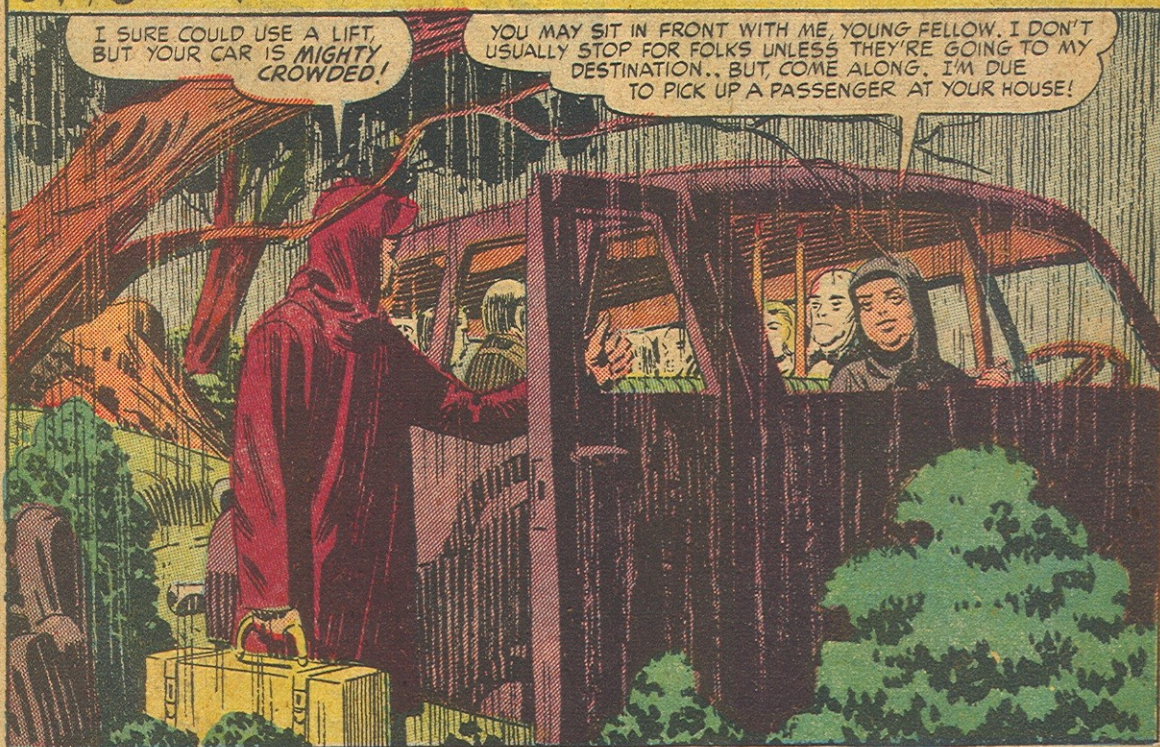
# BLACK MAGIC 77

Jerry was grateful when she stopped to give him a lift---but the icy chill of terror seized him when he began to guess the identity of---

## The CHEERFUL OLD LADY in BLACK!

I SURE COULD USE A LIFT, BUT YOUR CAR IS MIGHTY CROWDED!

YOU MAY SIT IN FRONT WITH ME, YOUNG FELLOW. I DON'T USUALLY STOP FOR FOLKS UNLESS THEY'RE GOING TO MY DESTINATION.. BUT, COME ALONG. I'M DUE TO PICK UP A PASSENGER AT YOUR HOUSE!



IT WOULD BE SIMPLE TO SAY THAT JERRY MARTIN IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING, AFTER ALL HE WAS ONLY A CHILD! BUT SOMETIMES CHILDREN CAN SEE AND UNDERSTAND THINGS THAT ADULTS CAN NOT...

MARY SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, SIR. GEE— RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST INNING— TOO! IT MUST BE IMPORTANT!

I'M AFRAID I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS FOR YOU, JERRY. I JUST HAD A CALL FROM YOUR AUNT. YOUR PARENTS HAVE BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT.

ARE THEY— ARE THEY -- DEAD?

YOUR AUNT DIDN'T SAY THAT! BUT, SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU CAME HOME. MARTY WILL HELP YOU PACK! IF YOU HURRY, YOU CAN JUST MAKE THE SEVEN O'CLOCK BUS!



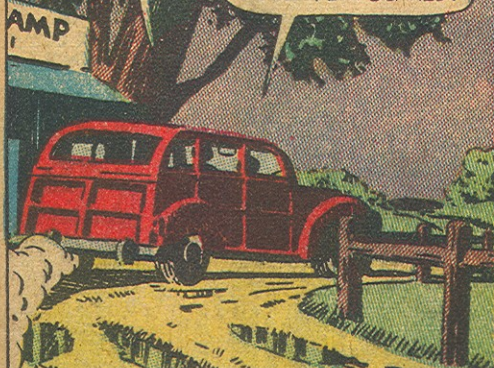


# BLACK MAGIC

IN THE DESPERATION OF FEAR, PEOPLE...  
EVEN YOUNG PEOPLE...MOVE **QUICKLY!**

LIGHTNING! JUST YOUR ROTTEN LUCK! IT  
**WOULD** RAIN TODAY! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE  
GOING TO HAVE A  
WET TRIP, JERRY!

I DON'T CARE! I'VE  
GOT TO GET HOME!  
MARTY, I'M SCARED!



IT WAS  
JUST  
AS THE  
STATION  
WAGON  
REACHED  
THE BUS  
TERMINAL  
THAT THE  
FIRST  
SPATTER  
OF RAIN  
BEGAN!  
BUT THE  
STORM  
THAT HAD  
BEEN  
BREWING  
ALL DAY  
DID NOT  
STOP  
WITH A  
MERE  
SPATTER!

HERE YOU ARE, JERRY! I GOT YOU YOUR  
TICKET! WITH LUCK, YOU'LL MAKE WEEDSPORT  
BY TEN O'CLOCK! AND  
FROM THE LOOKS OF  
THIS STORM I'D BETTER  
BE ON MY WAY, TOO!

I...I'LL BE **ALL**  
**RIGHT**, MARTY!  
YOU GO AHEAD!



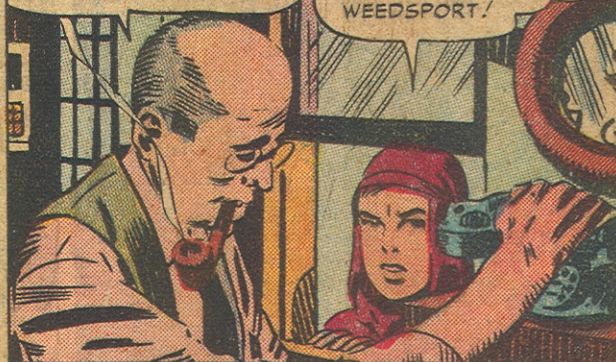
**GOOD LUCK!**



IT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO BE YOUNG, ALONE...AND  
AFRAID! THE SLOW **AGONIZING** MINUTES CRAWLED  
THEIR COURSE...

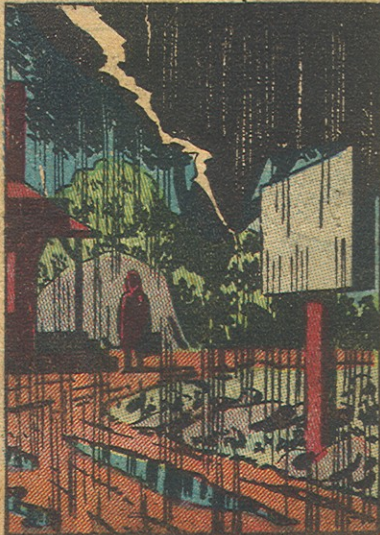
SORRY, YOUNGSTER, THAT CALL WAS  
FROM UP THE LINE, LACEY'S CREEK BRIDGE IS DOWN!  
WASHED OUT! **YOUR BUS**  
**WON'T BE COMING**  
**THROUGH TONIGHT!**

BUT IT'S GOT TO! I'VE  
GOT TO GET TO  
WEEDSPORT!



BEST THING YOU CAN  
DO IS CALL THE **CAMP**  
AND TELL 'EM TO  
COME AND GET  
YOU! THERE'S A  
PAY PHONE OVER  
THERE IN THE  
CORNER!

NO!  
I...  
I'LL  
GET HOME  
SOMEHOW!  
I **CAN'T**  
TURN BACK  
NOW!

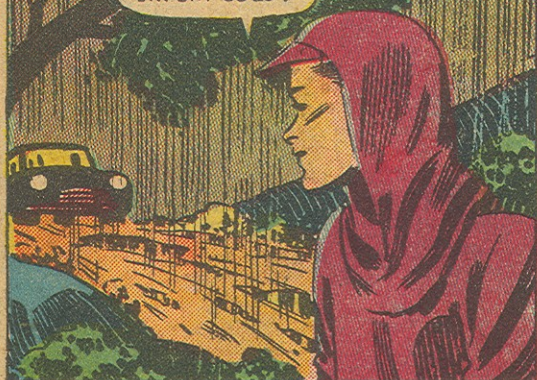




# BLACK MAGIC

IN ALL THE TIME YOUNG JERRY MARTIN TRUDGED ALONG THAT LONELY, MUDDY ROAD, HE MET NO LIVING THING! THERE WAS ONLY THE MOAN OF THE WIND... THE COLD, PELTING DRIVE OF RAIN! THEN...

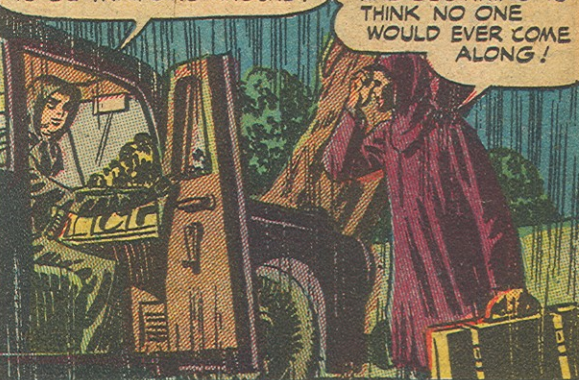
A CAR! GEE, MAYBE I CAN GET A LIFT! I... I'M COLD!



STANDING THERE IN THE GLARE OF THE HEADLIGHTS, THE BOY SUDDENLY TREMBLED WITH A STRANGE, SHARPER CHILL! BUT THE CAR HAD STOPPED! THAT WAS THE IMPORTANT THING!

LAND SAKES! IT'S A BOY! FINE NIGHT FOR A YOUNGSTER TO BE TRAIPSING AROUND!

GOSH, MA'AM! I SURE AM GLAD YOU STOPPED! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK NO ONE WOULD EVER COME ALONG!



WELL, GET IN, LAD! GET IN! THERE'S NO POINT IN LEAVING YOU STANDING IN THE RAIN!

THANKS! I SURE CAN USE A LIFT! GOLLY, I NEVER SAW A CAR LIKE THIS MODEL BEFORE!



OH, IT'S CUSTOM MADE, MY BOY! THE VERY LATEST DESIGN FOR ITS PURPOSE! THE FOLKS WHO RIDE WITH ME PRAISE IT FOR COMFORT!

IT SURE IS! YOU WOULDN'T BE DRIVING BY WEEDSPORT, WOULD YOU, MA'AM? THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADED!



WEEDSPORT! YOU ARE LUCKY! I HAVE TO MAKE A STOP THERE! YES, I'M SURE IT'S ON MY SCHEDULE!

THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE KIND OF NIGHT THAT PEOPLE USUALLY GO TRAVELING!



MERCY ME, CHILD! IT WOULD NEVER DO TO DELAY A SCHEDULED PASSENGER... THINK OF THE CONFUSION IT WOULD CAUSE! THESE TRIPS MUST BE MADE COME RAIN OR SHINE! AND THEY'RE REALLY NOT UNPLEASANT AT ALL!

THESE PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO BE HAVING A VERY GOOD TIME, THOUGHT!



HEAVENS! I DON'T GUARANTEE THEM A GOOD TIME! JUST A PLEASANT RIDE! IF YOU'RE ALSO CURIOUS TO LEARN MY NAME IT'S MISS SMILES!

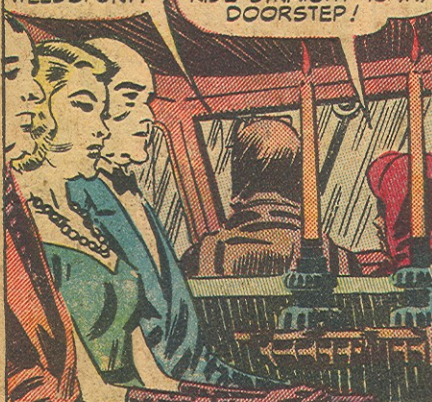
I'M JERRY MARTIN! AND I'M SORRY IF I APPEAR TO BE PRYING!





# BLACK MAGIC

MARTIN-MARTIN...WHY BLESS MY SOUL! MARTIN IS THE NAME OF THE FAMILY I MUST CALL ON TONIGHT AT WEEDSPORT!



YOU MEAN YOU'RE STOPPING AT MY HOUSE? WHAT A BREAK! A RIDE STRAIGHT TO MY DOORSTEP!

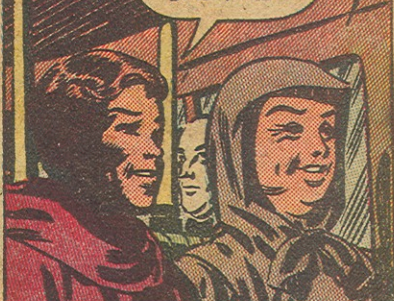
BUT-BUT WHY WOULD YOU BE CALLING ON MOM AND DAD?



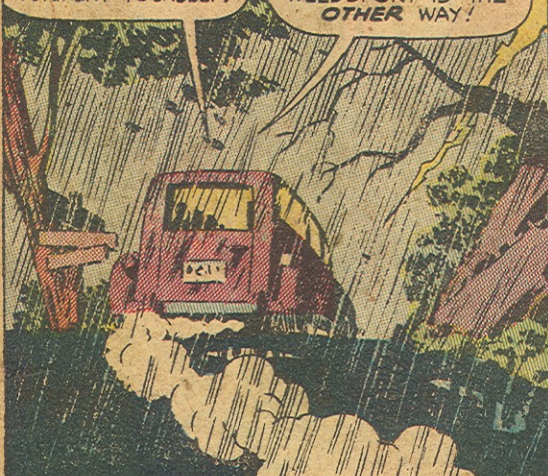
DON'T BE SILLY, BOY!

I'VE GOT TO! THE ADDRESS IS LISTED ON MY SCHEDULE! PLAIN AS DAY! I'VE BEEN AT MY JOB A LONG TIME, SONNY! AND MISS SMILES RARELY MAKES A MISTAKE!

THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT AT HOME! THAT'S WHY I WAS HITCH-HIKING! I-I'M AFRAID MY MOM AND DAD ARE...

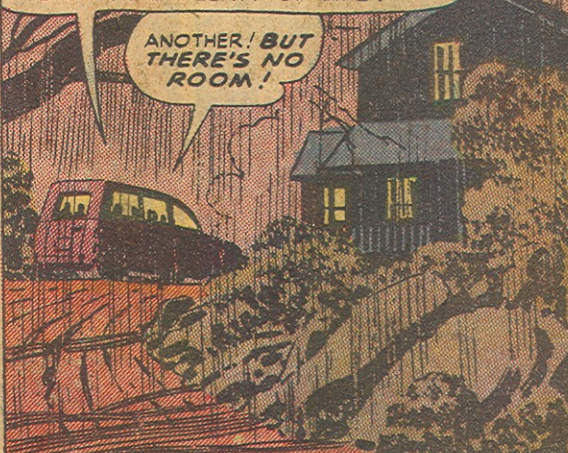


THERE, THERE, JERRY! IT'S NOT RIGHT TO TORMENT YOURSELF!



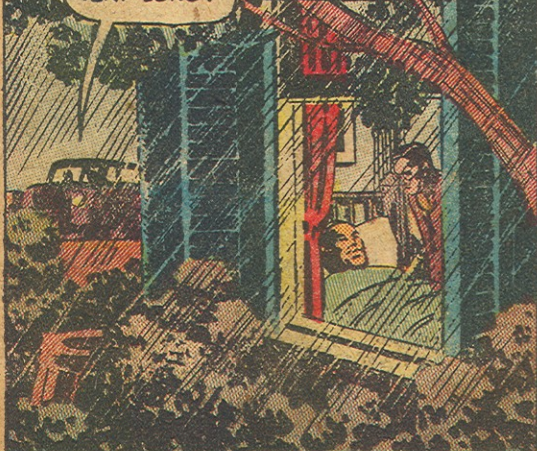
MISS SMILES! YOU TOOK THE WRONG TURN! WEEDSPORT IS THE OTHER WAY!

NOW, DON'T YOU FRET! I HAVE TO STOP HERE TO PICK UP ANOTHER PASSENGER! IT WON'T TAKE MORE THAN A MOMENT! WE'LL REACH WEEDSPORT IN PLENTY OF TIME!

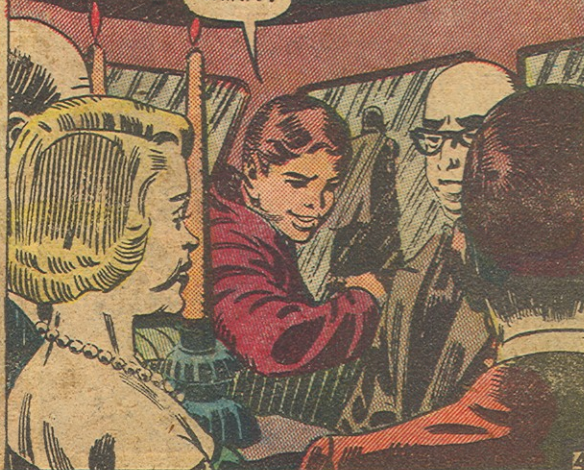


ANOTHER! BUT THERE'S NO ROOM!

WHY WE ALWAYS HAVE ENOUGH ROOM, JERRY! YOU JUST WAIT HERE AND I'LL BE RIGHT BACK! MY BUSINESS NEVER TAKES VERY LONG!



MISS SMILES IS A NICE, OLD LADY! BUT A LITTLE STRANGE...DON'T YOU THINK?



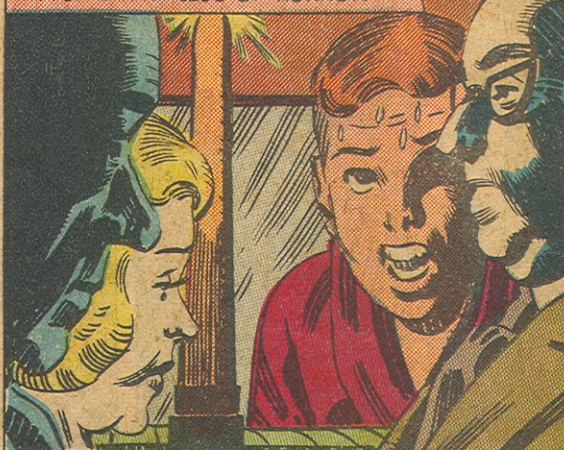


# BLACK MAGIC



HUH! GUESS NONE OF THESE PEOPLE  
FEEL LIKE TALKING! THEY'RE SO  
CALM -- SO QUIET!

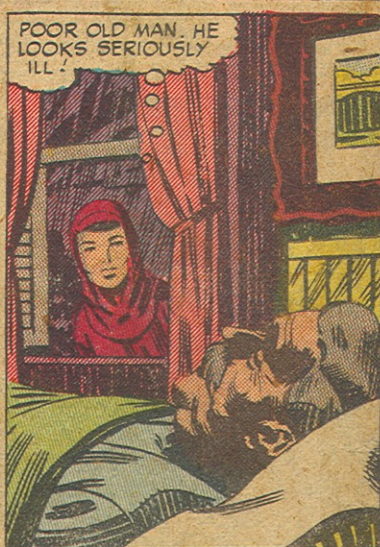
YES QUIET -- LIKE THE SOMBER SILENCE OF THE  
GRAVE -- / THE THOUGHT BURROWED INTO JERRY'S  
BRAIN AND CRAWLED AROUND INSIDE HIM ON A  
THOUSAND TINY LEGS OF HORROR --



MISS SMILES! WAIT FOR  
ME! WAIT FOR ME!



SHE DIDN'T HEAR ME! I'LL  
WAIT FOR HER OUTSIDE THE  
HOUSE!



POOR OLD MAN. HE  
LOOKS SERIOUSLY  
ILL!



WERE YOU CALLING ME, JERRY!



YES, MA'AM  
THIS IS MR. BLACK, JERRY. HE'LL 'BE  
GOING ALONG WITH US!  
AND WE'D BETTER  
HURRY IF WE'RE  
TO GET TO  
WEEDSPORT!  
THAT'S THE  
SAME OLD  
MAN WHO  
WAS SUPPOSED  
TO BE D---



# BLACK MAGIC

IF TERROR CAN BREAK A MAN, WHAT WILL IT DO TO A BOY! JERRY WAS **QUAKING** WITH FEAR! AND ONLY THE PLEASANT REASSURING MANNER OF MISS SMILES KEPT THE BOY FROM GIVING WAY TO PANIC! STRANGELY ENOUGH, THERE WAS ROOM FOR THE NEW PASSENGER!

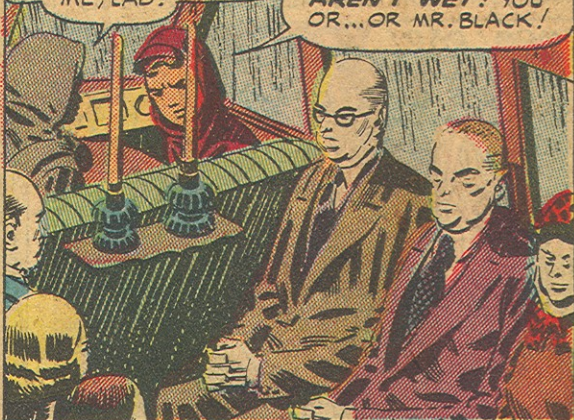
IT REALLY WASN'T **POLITE** OF YOU TO SPY, JERRY! BUT WE'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT, SHALL WE?

I...I WASN'T SPYING! I... I-I'M J-JUST SCARED! MISTER BLACK...THESE PEOPLE... TH- THEY'RE...



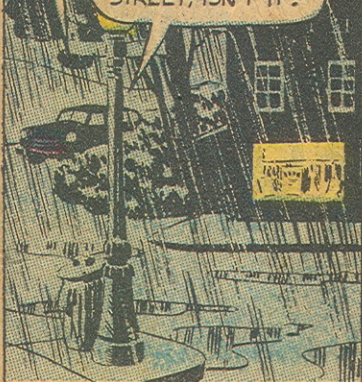
DEAR ME! UNSCHEDULED PASSENGERS NEVER QUITE SEEM TO **UNDERSTAND!** NOW, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, LAD!

THEY CAN'T SEE...OR HEAR! AND YOU... YOU WERE JUST OUT IN THE RAIN BUT, YOU **AREN'T WET!** YOU OR...OR MR. BLACK!



I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I-I **KNOW!**

WHY, CERTAINLY YOU DO, JERRY! I'M **MISS SMILES!** AND, HERE'S WEEDS-PORT! I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME, IF YOU LIKE! IT'S JAMES STREET, ISN'T IT?



NO! YOU MUSTN'T DRIVE ME HOME! YOU...YOU HAVE **ENOUGH** PASSENGERS! BESIDES WE DON'T LIVE ON JAMES STREET ANY MORE!

YOU DON'T? WHY, THAT'S STRANGE! MY RECORDS HAVE **NEVER** BEEN WRONG BEFORE!



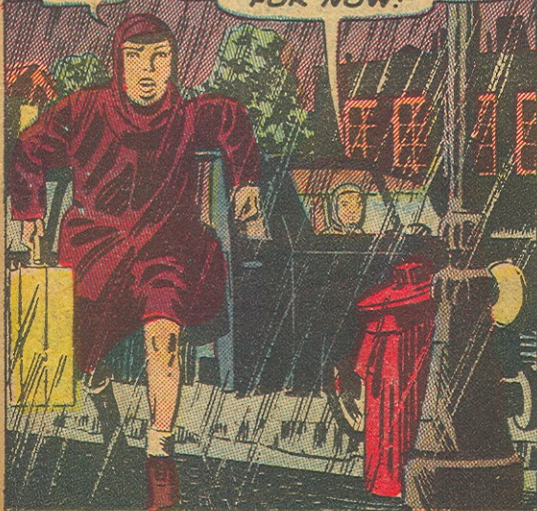
**WE MOVED!** WE LIVE ON REGAL STREET NOW! IT... IT'S JUST DOWN THE BLOCK! YOU CAN LET ME OUT HERE! YOU... YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ME ANY FURTHER!

REGAL STREET? I SEE! VERY WELL, THEN, JERRY! BUT THERE'S REALLY **NO** REASON WHY I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO YOUR DOOR!



**NO! NO!**

ALL RIGHT, JERRY! GOOD-BYE FOR NOW!



SHE BELIEVED ME! SHE'LL DRIVE RIGHT PAST OUR HOUSE! SHE...





# BLACK MAGIC

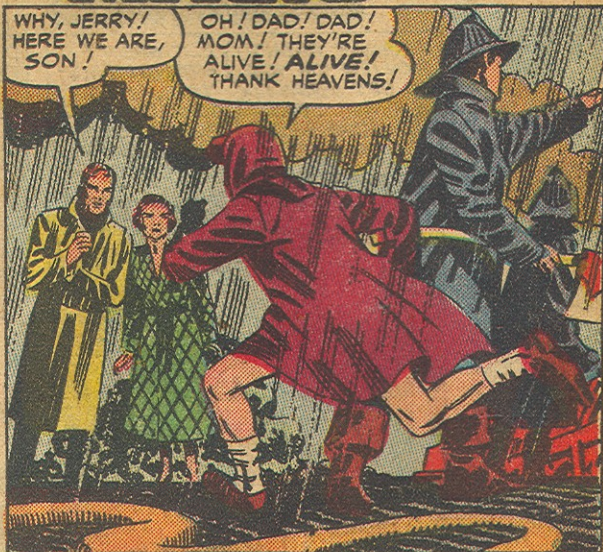
JERRY RAN AS FAST AS HIS YOUNG LEGS WOULD CARRY HIM! THE BOYS HEART LEAPED CRAZILY WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIS HOME! JERRY FRANTICALLY FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH THE MILLING CROWD...IN HIS NOSTRILS WAS THE ACRID SMELL OF SMOLDERING WRECKAGE! AND DESPAIR WET HIS FACE WITH HOT TEARS!

MOM! DAD!  
WHERE'S MY  
MOM AND  
DAD?



WHY, JERRY!  
HERE WE ARE,  
SON!

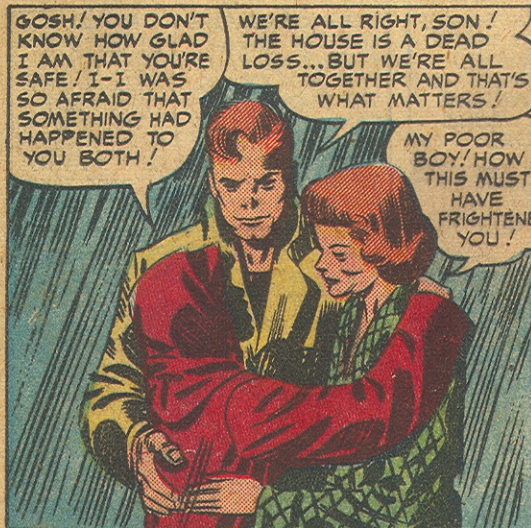
OH! DAD! DAD!  
MOM! THEY'RE  
ALIVE! ALIVE!  
THANK HEAVENS!



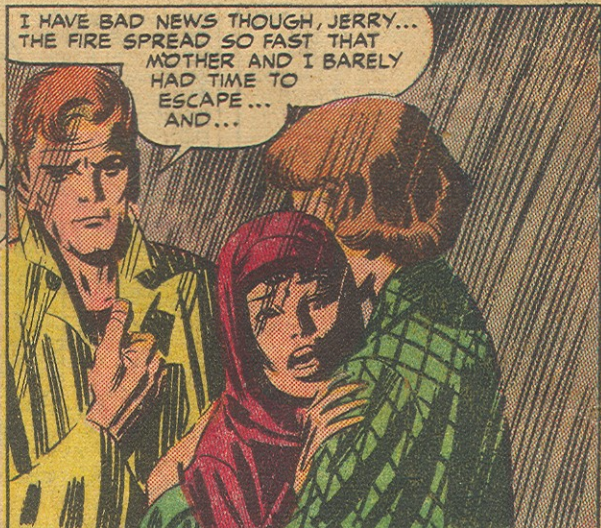
GOSH! YOU DON'T  
KNOW HOW GLAD  
I AM THAT YOU'RE  
SAFE! I-I WAS  
SO AFRAID THAT  
SOMETHING HAD  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU BOTH!

WE'RE ALL RIGHT, SON!  
THE HOUSE IS A DEAD  
LOSS...BUT WE'RE ALL  
TOGETHER AND THAT'S  
WHAT MATTERS!

MY POOR  
BOY! HOW  
THIS MUST  
HAVE  
FRIGHTENED  
YOU!



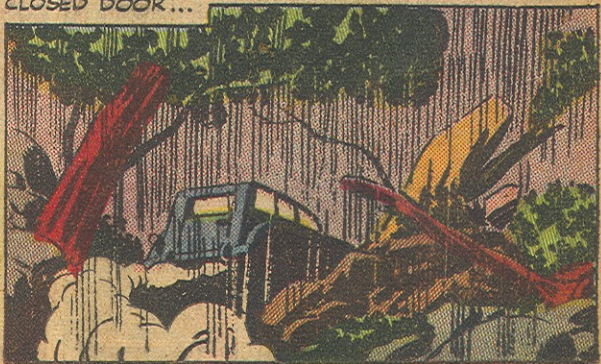
I HAVE BAD NEWS THOUGH, JERRY...  
THE FIRE SPREAD SO FAST THAT  
MOTHER AND I BARELY  
HAD TIME TO  
ESCAPE...  
AND...



TIGER! IT WAS MY CAT  
SHE WAS COMING FOR!  
AND I THOUGHT...



YES, JERRY THOUGHT HE HAD CHEATED THE SMILING  
OLD LADY! CHEATED TO SAVE HIS PARENTS...BUT SHE  
HAD FOUND HIS ADDRESS AFTER ALL! SHE ALWAYS  
FOUND THE RIGHT ADDRESS...WHEN IT WAS LISTED  
ON THE SCHEDULE! AND, AS THE VEHICLE OF  
THE DEAD RODE OFF INTO THE NIGHT ON SILENT  
WHEELS, JERRY KNEW THAT SOMEDAY HE WOULD SEE  
MISS SMILES AGAIN! BUT THE FUTURE WAS STILL A  
CLOSED DOOR...





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Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

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# BLACK MAGIC

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ON A CERTAIN DAY OF THE YEAR SATAN COMES AMONG MEN TO SELL HIS WARES!..WOE BETIDE THE MAN WHO HUNTS BARGAINS ON THAT DAY, FOR HE MAY BE FATED TO WEAR...

## The CLOAK!

AS SOON AS I SAW YOU COME INTO THE STORE, I KNEW YOU WERE THE MAN TO WEAR THIS CLOAK, SIR! YOU'LL FIND IT AN EXCELLENT FIT. IT WAS MADE FOR YOU!

IT'S STRANGE HE SHOULD SAY THAT. I HAD THE SAME FEELING WHEN I FIRST SAW IT! AS IF I WERE FATED TO WEAR IT --- AS IF MY VERY LIFE WAS INVOLVED IN ITS PURCHASE!

TO THIS DAY PAUL DARYAS CANNOT EXPLAIN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH HAPPENED TO HIM. TRUE, MANY STRANGE THINGS TAKE PLACE IN THE OLD WORLD, AND BUDAPEST IS AN ANCIENT CITY STEEPED IN ANCIENT LORE... YET WHY SHOULD IT HAVE BEEN HE WHO WAS -- SELECTED?

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO SEE SOME OF YOUR OLD FRIENDS, PAUL... THEY HAVE MONEY! SURELY ONE OF THEM WOULD HELP!

NO! IT WOULD BE LIKE BEGGING! I STILL HAVE A LITTLE PRIDE LEFT! MY OLD FRIENDS HAVE FORGOTTEN ME!

ANY LUCK TODAY, PAUL?

MY LUCK SEEMS TO HAVE RUN OUT! EVERYWHERE YOU GO THESE DAYS IT IS THE SAME STORY! SORRY, NO OPENINGS.. SORRY, NO HELP WANTED!





# BLACK MAGIC

PERHAPS NOT! I LEFT A LETTER IN YOUR ROOM... IT CAME THIS MORNING. EXPENSIVE STATIONERY! AH, WELL--CHEER UP, PAUL... THINGS ALWAYS LOOK BLACKER THAN THEY ARE!

THANK YOU! ONE MUST GO ON LIVING, EH! SOMETIMES I WONDER--WHY!

ALL THAT DAY STRANGE THOUGHTS HAD HAUNTED PAUL DARVAS. THE THOUGHT OF DEATH--OF PEACE! CHAOTIC, HALF FORMED THOUGHTS... YET ALL IN A MOMENT HIS WORLD WAS TO CHANGE!

IT'S FROM HANDEL! AN INVITATION! PERHAPS--PERHAPS!

IT WAS A SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED PAUL DARVAS WHO BURST FROM HIS ROOM A MOMENT LATER... A MAN WHO CLUTCHED AT A STRAW!

PAUL! WHAT IS IT?

RESCUE, MAMA PRADA! AN INVITATION FROM AN OLD FRIEND! THERE WILL BE MANY PEOPLE THERE! PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE EMPLOYMENT FOR A DESERVING YOUNG MAN!

A PARTY! GOOD! YOUNG PEOPLE NEED PARTIES! BUT YOU CANNOT GO LIKE THAT! YOUR CLOTHES!

I STILL HAVE MY FULL DRESS SUIT, FROM BETTER DAYS! I NEED ONLY A COAT! NO--A CLOAK! A CLOAK FOR DASH, FOR SPIRIT! I SHALL RENT ONE!

IT CAME ABOUT SO NORMALLY, SO NATURALLY! THE PAUL DARVAS WHO STOOD, A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN A LITTLE TAILOR'S SHOP WAS NOT THE YOUNG MAN WHO HAD BROODED ABOUT DEATH AND PEACE!

AH! PERFECT! A CLOAK LIKE THIS MAKES A MAN FEEL LIKE GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD, EH, MR. BARTOS?

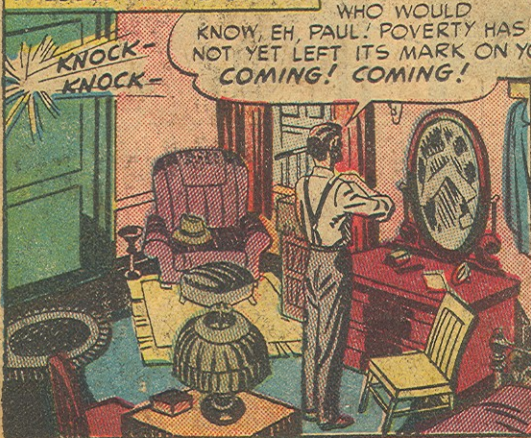
A CLOAK IS LIKE A SCREEN! IT REVEALS MANY THINGS--AND HIDES OTHERS! A BIT HIGHER HERE, I THINK! IT WILL HAVE TO BE ALTERED, BUT I CAN HAVE IT READY BY THIS EVENING!

UPON SO SMALL A THING AS AN INVITATION TO A PARTY CAN A MAN'S FUTURE HINGE! PAUL DARVAS WAS GAY, EXCITED AS HE DRESSED THAT EVENING!

WHO WOULD KNOW, EH, PAUL! POVERTY HAS NOT YET LEFT ITS MARK ON YOU! COMING! COMING!

YOUR CLOAK, MR DARVAS! IT SHOULD FIT PERFECTLY!

GOOD! LET ME PUT IT AWAY AND I'LL SIGN YOUR RECEIPT!





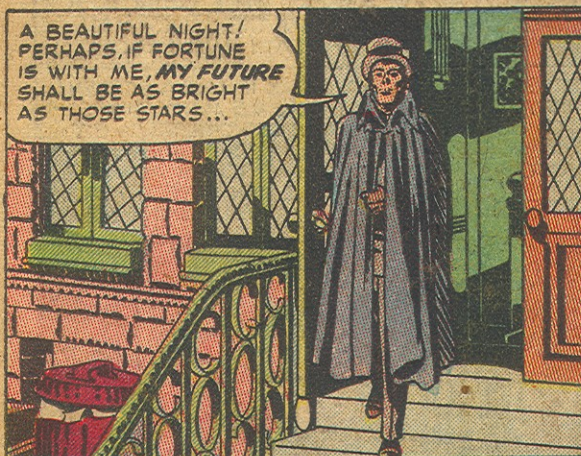
# BLACK MAGIC

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, MR. DARVAS... OUR FIRM HAS NEVER LOST A CLOAK...OR A CUSTOMER!  
GOOD DAY, SIR!



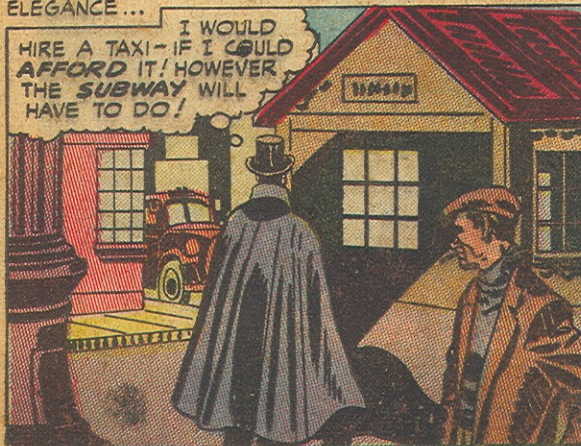
BEFORE THE HALL MIRROR NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING IN WHICH HE LIVED, PAUL DARVAS PAUSED TO GIVE A FINAL RAKISH TILT TO HIS HAT! THEN HE EMERGED INTO THE CLEAR, STARLIT NIGHT!

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT! PERHAPS, IF FORTUNE IS WITH ME, MY FUTURE SHALL BE AS BRIGHT AS THOSE STARS...



SURPRISED AND SHAKEN BY THIS FREAKISH ACT OF THE WEATHER, PAUL REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE AND CONTINUED TOWARD HIS DESTINATION! HE FELT LIKE THE VICTIM OF AN UNSEEN CONSPIRACY TO EXPOSE THE NEARLY EMPTY POCKETS HIDDEN BENEATH HIS ELEGANCE...

I WOULD HIRE A TAXI-IF I COULD AFFORD IT! HOWEVER THE SUBWAY WILL HAVE TO DO!



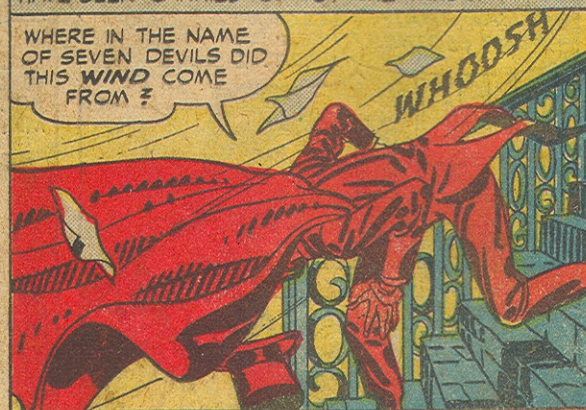
IF THIS WERE A FICTION STORY, IF THE STORY OF PAUL DARVAS NEEDED MORE HORROR, IT WOULD BE EASY TO SAY THAT THE FEEL OF THE CLOAK REVOLTED HIM, CHILLED HIM, BUT IT WAS NOT LIKE THAT!

THE CLOAK HAS A TAG ON IT... "ASMODEUS"! WHOEVER HE IS, HIS WORKMANSHIP IS EXCELLENT! THE CLOAK FEELS AS THOUGH IT WERE MADE FOR ME!



AND OUT OF THE SWEET-SCENTED SILENCE OF THIS PERFECT NIGHT, SURGED A SUDDEN BLAST OF WIND WHICH TORE WITH GREAT VIOLENCE AT PAUL'S CLOAK AND ALMOST SENT HIM SPRAWLING...HAD THE CLOAK NOT BEEN TIED SECURELY, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF BY THE WIND...

WHERE IN THE NAME OF SEVEN DEVILS DID THIS WIND COME FROM?



THE NEXT TRAIN WILL BE MINE... THE TRIP WILL NOT TAKE LONG!





# BLACK MAGIC



YOU THERE! YOUR CLOAK! IT'S CAUGHT IN THE DOOR OF THE TRAIN!

GOOD HEAVENS!



WHEW! YOUR CLOAK TORE FREE JUST IN TIME! WHAT AMAZING LUCK!



C-CAN'T BREATHE! KNOTS FROM CAPE--WON'T OPEN--

LET ME HELP YOU!



BLAST THESE KNOTS! IT IS AS IF THEY WERE RESISTING MY FINGERS! UGH! THERE, MY FRIEND! YOU ARE FREE OF THIS RASCALLY CLOAK!

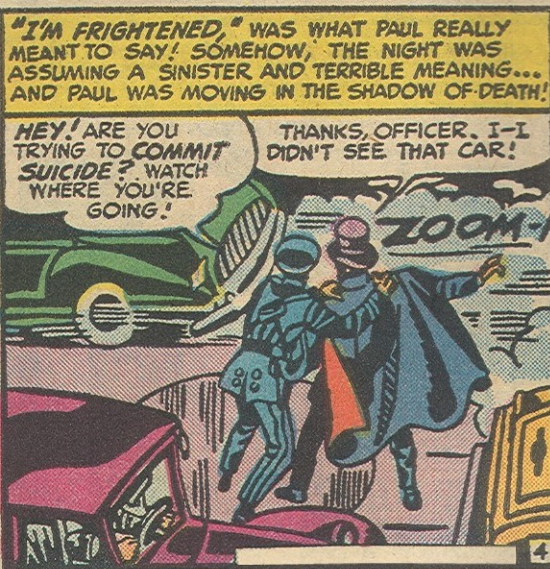
THANK YOU--I-I WAS STRANG-LING!

BATTERED, GASPING, PAUL DARVAS ROSE WEAKLY TO HIS FEET.. HE STAMMERED HIS GRATITUDE THROUGH BRUISED LIPS.. THIS SECOND OCCURRENCE INVOLVING THE CLOAK WAS SPREADING CONFUSION IN HIS ALREADY DISORDERED THOUGHTS!



HUH! LOOK AT THAT CLOAK! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THERE'S NOT A SINGLE TEAR IN IT!

Y-YES--IT'S NOT EVEN SOILED... I-I'M ASTONISHED!



"I'M FRIGHTENED," WAS WHAT PAUL REALLY MEANT TO SAY! SOMEHOW, THE NIGHT WAS ASSUMING A SINISTER AND TERRIBLE MEANING... AND PAUL WAS MOVING IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH!

HEY! ARE YOU TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE? WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

THANKS, OFFICER. I-I DIDN'T SEE THAT CAR!

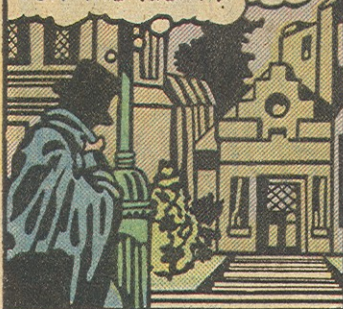
ZOOM-



# BLACK MAGIC

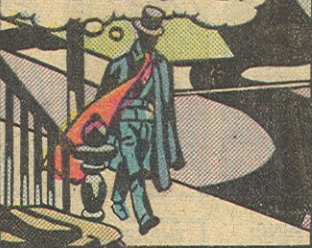
SUICIDE! THAT DAY PAUL DARVAS HAD THOUGHT OF SUICIDE! AND NOW, IT SEEMED THAT IT WAS CERTAIN TO BE HIS FATE!

STRANGE... I SUDDENLY FEEL SO COLD... MY TEETH ARE BEGINNING TO CHATTER! YET I'M PROPERLY CLOTHED FOR THIS NIGHT!

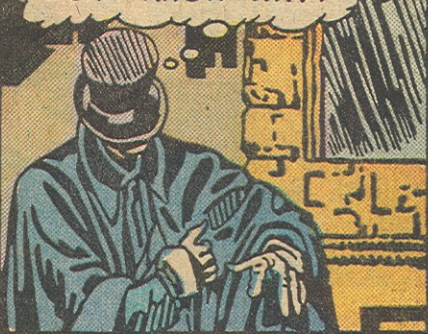


EVEN STRANGER WAS THE SUDDEN RETURN OF WARMTH WHEN PAUL HAD WALKED ANOTHER BLOCK!

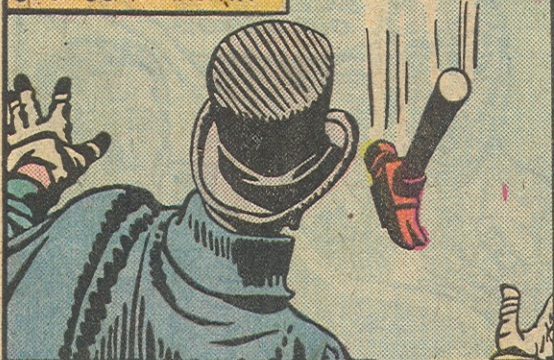
WILL THESE WONDERS NEVER CEASE? THE COLD SPELL HAS PASSED! IT BEGAN WHEN I WALKED BY THE CATHEDRAL... AND NOW... OH-WHAT AM I THINKING! MY NERVES ARE GETTING THE BETTER OF ME!



YET, SOMEHOW, I CAN'T RID MYSELF OF THE FEELING THAT THERE IS SOME GHASTLY PATTERN TO THE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE BEFALLEN ME... A PATTERN, WOVEN IN THE FOLDS OF THIS CLOAK... YES, WHY NOT ADMIT IT, PAUL DARVAS! IT'S THE CLOAK YOU FEAR... AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHY!



AT THAT MOMENT, A HEAVY OBJECT HURTLIED FROM THE DARKNESS OVERHEAD AND STRUCK THE GROUND AT PAUL'S FEET... IT WAS A LARGE HAMMER! AND IT HAD MISSED PAUL'S HEAD BY A SCANT INCH...



YOU... YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!

KILL YOU? DON'T BE A FOOL! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! THIS SIGN IS UNSAFE! I WAS FIXING IT! IT ISN'T MY FAULT IF I DIDN'T SEE YOU! THAT CLOAK MAKES YOU PART OF THE DARKNESS!



THE CLOAK! ALWAYS THE CLOAK! EVER SINCE I PUT IT ON THIS EVENING I'VE MET WITH NOTHING BUT MISHAPS!



NO LONGER DID THE CLOAK SEEM A THING OF FINERY... BUT A SHROUD... SEWN TO DRAPE THE BODY OF A DEAD MAN! PAUL TORE THE GARMENT FROM HIS SHOULDERS AND OFFERED IT TO THE FIRST DERELICT WHO HAPPENED ALONG!

HERE! THIS IS FOR YOU! TAKE IT! TAKE IT!

YOU WANT TO GIVE ME YOUR CLOAK? YOU AREN'T DRUNK, ARE YOU? WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE ME YOUR CLOAK?





# BLACK MAGIC

PAUL DARVAS DIDN'T EXPLAIN! HE WAS SPEECHLESS WITH TERROR! HE THRUST THE CLOAK AT THE SHABBY MAN AND RAN FOR ALL HE WAS WORTH! THE PARTY WAS FORGOTTEN! IN HIS ROOM PAUL WOULD BE SAFE! ONLY THERE DID THE NAMELESS DREAD LEAVE HIM!

I'M HOME! I'M SAFE HERE! SAFE FROM THAT... BUT I'M BEING A FOOL! CLOAKS ARE JUST BITS OF CLOTH! Y-YET... HOW CAN I BE SURE?

R-P-RING!



WHAT DID MONEY MATTER? WHAT DID ANYTHING MATTER! PAUL WAS ALIVE... SAFE FROM THE MALIGNANCE WHICH HE FELT PURSUED HIM! BUT THIS STRANGE INCIDENT WAS NOT TO END THERE!

YOU WANT TO PAY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I HAVE YOUR CLOAK READY! THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING... TO ASK WHEN YOU WILL PICK IT UP?

BUT YOU SENT THE CLOAK! YOUR SALESMAN DELIVERED IT! A SMALL MAN! ALMOST BALD, AND HE HAD A MOUSTACHE! I... I FORGOT TO ASK HIS NAME!



Y-YES! YES! THIS IS PAUL DARVAS! OH, IT'S YOU, MR. BARTOS! I'M AFRAID I... I HAVE BAD NEWS... THE CLOAK YOU SENT! I... I LOST IT! BUT I'LL PAY FOR IT! I'LL PAY FOR IT... SOMEHOW!



THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE, MISTER DARVAS... YOU ORDERED A CLOAK IN THIS STORE! NOW WE HAVE ONE FOR YOU! BUT THIS DELIVERY YOU TALK ABOUT... WE HAVE NO RECORD OF IT! AND THE SALESMAN... THERE IS NO SUCH SALESMAN IN OUR EMPLOY!

I-I SEE..



DAZED AND SHOCKED, PAUL HUNG UP ON HIS SURPRISED CALLER... THE FEAR HAD RETURNED... WHO HAD SENT HIM THE CLOAK? WHO WAS THE MAN WHO DELIVERED IT? PAUL DIDN'T KNOW! BUT HE DID REMEMBER THE LABEL IN THE CLOAK... AND THE NAME SEWN INSIDE IT!

ASMODEUS! THAT WAS THE NAME ON THE CLOAK LABEL! I... I REMEMBER IT AS PLAIN AS DAY!



AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED, PAUL KNEW BETTER THAN TO SEARCH FOR THIS ASMODEUS IN THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY! HE CHOSE ANOTHER BOOK... OLD AND YELLOW WITH THE PASSAGE OF COUNTLESS YEARS...

WHAT I'VE SUSPECTED IS TRUE! BEELZEBUB, MEPHISTO... ASMODEUS... ALL NAMES FOR SATAN!



SATAN'S CLOAK! DISASTER WAS AT MY HEELS EACH MOMENT THE CLOAK RESTED ON MY SHOULDERS! HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO BE RID OF IT! BUT THAT VAGRANT! I... I SEALED HIS FATE WHEN I GAVE HIM THE CLOAK!





# BLACK MAGIC

I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!  
WARN HIM! IF HE DIES...  
I SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR HIS DEATH!



PAUL SEARCHED WILDLY  
THROUGH THE GLOOMY  
SLUMS OF BUDAPEST! HE  
FOUND HIS QUARRY IN A  
PUB NOT FAR FROM WHERE  
HE HAD ORIGINALLY SEEN  
HIM...

THAT'S HIM! HE'S  
STILL WEARING THE CLOAK  
...AND STILL ALIVE!



BUT THOSE WHO LIVE FROM DAY TO  
DAY...WHO KNOW NO RESPIRE FROM  
THE HUNGRY GNAWINGS OF WANT,  
DO NOT SURRENDER THEIR POS-  
SESSIONS EASILY!

PLEASE! YOU'VE  
GOT TO LISTEN!  
YOU MUST GET  
RID OF THAT  
CLOAK! THE SAFETY  
OF YOUR SOUL  
DEPENDS ON IT!

THE CLOAK IS  
MINE! AND YOU  
CAN'T FRIGHTEN  
ME INTO GIVING  
IT BACK TO  
YOU!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!  
IT'S DEATH TO WEAR THAT  
CLOAK! YOU'VE GOT TO  
GET RID OF IT! THE  
CLOAK IS CURSED!  
IT WAS MADE BY THE...

WHAT SORT OF  
FOOL DO YOU  
TAKE ME FOR?  
IT'S MINE NOW!  
MINE, TO WARN  
ME WHEN THE  
SNOW COMES!



OUT OF SHEER DESPERATION, PAUL DARVAS  
CLUTCHED FOR THE CLOAK! BUT THE VAGA-  
BOND ELUDED HIS GRASP AND BOLTED FOR  
THE DOOR!

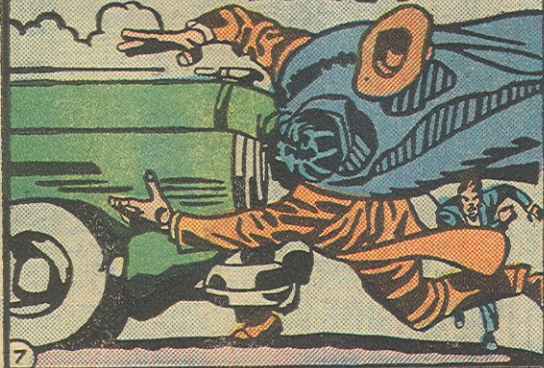
WAIT!  
YOU FOOL! WAIT!

NO! I WON'T GIVE  
IT UP!



PAUL TOOK AFTER THE FLEEING MAN...WHO  
RAN HELPLESSLY INTO THE STREET...THROUGH  
THE BUSY TRAFFIC...INTO THE ARMS OF DEATH...

## CRASH!



PAUL DARVAS DID NOT MOVE IN  
ALL THE TIME IT TOOK TO LIFT THE  
CAR FROM THE MANGLED BODY!  
HIS FEET WERE WEARY AND HIS  
BRAIN WAS ON FIRE...ONLY AFTER  
A LONG PAUSE DID PAUL DECIDE  
TO LEAVE...AS HE WALKED OFF,  
PAUL VENTURED ONE LAST GLANCE!

THE CLOAK! THE CLOAK IS...  
GONE!



THERE WAS  
SUCH A CLOAK!  
PAUL DARVAS  
WILL TAKE  
AN OATH ON  
IT! WHERE  
IT IS NOW  
IS A MATTER  
FOR CON-  
JECTURE!  
BUT IT IS  
BOUND TO  
BE WORN  
AGAIN!  
PERHAPS...  
BY YOU...  
SURELY, YOU  
WOULDN'T  
FEAR IT!  
YOU'RE NOT  
SOLD ON  
THIS SORT  
OF NONSENSE!  
OF COURSE  
NOT...ARE YOU?



# REDUCE KEEP SLIM AT HOME WITH RELAXING, SOOTHING MASSAGE!

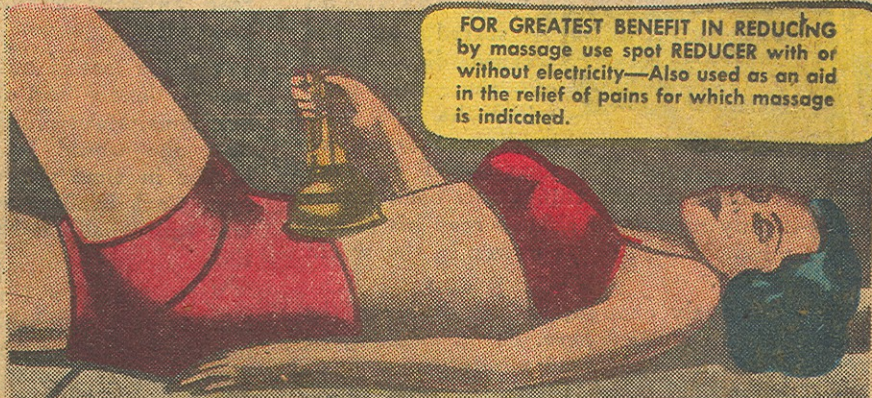
## ELECTRIC SPOT REDUCER

TAKE  
POUNDS  
OFF—  
KEEP SLIM  
AND TRIM

PLUG IN  
GRASP  
HANDLE  
AND  
APPLY



UNDERWRITERS  
LABORATORY  
APPROVED



FOR GREATEST BENEFIT IN REDUCING by massage use spot REDUCER with or without electricity—Also used as an aid in the relief of pains for which massage is indicated.

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## Out Of Your Mind



CARL SANDERS stared at the warped dirty cover of the old book which he had been reading, and sighed heavily. If it were only possible to do the things this book promised—if only man were able to read his fellow man's mind. Then, all the power in the world would be his.

And strangely enough, he half believed the words he had studied here. For a moment, he actually felt he could read minds.

The book was part of old Jonathan Winslow's things, whose estate he was handling. Sanders had always known the old man to be an eccentric but he had never dreamed the poor fellow had delved in things such as this.

The beautiful young woman in the doorway interrupted his thoughts.

"Mr. Sanders—I'm Joyce Winslow," she said.

Her beauty dazed him for a moment. Joyce Winslow was old Jonathan's niece and heiress.

"Yes, won't you sit down, Miss Winslow. I hope you didn't make too many plans," he said quietly. "I'm afraid there isn't going to be any money after your uncle's debts are taken care of—just his curios and a few papers he was working on."

The disappointment in her face was apparent.

"No—no, of course not," she said.

It was suddenly as though another voice penetrated the stillness that followed. Sanders looked at Joyce quickly, but she was not speaking. Still the voice continued.

"What would you care about the plans I made," the voice said. "You have everything—security, wealth, an exciting life. What would you know about living in a small town that's so dull it nearly drove me crazy. What would you know about how much I wanted to get away from there. I could have, too, if my uncle had left me anything at all."

It took him a moment to realize what had happened. Then it came to him with an incredible joy. He had read her mind. He could

read anyone's mind. What power lay at his fingertips.

Sanders looked at the girl in sympathy. She was so lovely and she felt so strongly about her home. Maybe if she were able to stay in the city, she would let him see her occasionally. Maybe in time she would even learn to love him. Carl Sanders was a lonely man, and it was this loneliness that prompted his next action.

"Miss Winslow I neglected to mention that I know of a man who's very interested in buying some of your uncle's papers. He said he'd be willing to pay up to \$1,000 for them. Are you interested?"

She could hardly contain herself in her excitement.

"Oh, Mr. Sanders, honestly? Oh, that's wonderful. Please tell him I want to sell anything he wants to buy."

It was a simple matter in the weeks that followed to convince Joyce to be his secretary. He hired her because he wanted to keep her with him. There were so many young men in the city—attractive men and she might fall in love with one of them if he gave her the chance.

By the end of a month, Joyce had become an integral part of his life. He could not imagine what he had ever done before he had known her. There was only one factor that spoiled his days now. Although he gave Joyce everything she wanted, took her every place she indicated she would like to go, she still had not fallen in love with him.

As hard as he tried to keep everyone else out of her life, it was a losing battle. She had to meet other people. Perhaps if he hadn't kept her so isolated from the rest of the world, she might never have fallen in love with George Franklin.

He, himself, brought young Franklin home with him one day, unthinkingly. Franklin was working on a case with him, and they had a few things to talk over, so Sanders had suggested they go to his home.

The minute they entered the house, he realized his mistake. He could not escape the way the two of them—the young girl and the young



man looked at each other even before they were introduced.

"This boss of yours must have a sixth sense," George was saying to Joyce a few minutes later. "He pulls evidence out of his hat like a magician. I still don't understand how you did it, Carl. There were only two men in the world who knew about that secret contract, and somehow you found out about it."

"It's Joyce," Sanders answered, in an attempt to keep the conversation light. "She's my good luck charm."

"You know," Joyce spoke up. "He hasn't lost a case as long as I've been working for him."

But all the time they were talking, he could see George sneaking glances at Joyce, and he knew she was pleased too. He had to get George out of there.

"Look," he said, hoping his voice revealed none of his desperation. "I hate to rush you, but would you mind getting at those papers. I'd like to get them out tonight."

"Sure thing," George answered, picking up his briefcase. "So long, Joyce. If your boss man here will permit it, why don't you have lunch with me one day. I'll give you a call."

"Why I'd like to," Joyce answered and her face looked happy.

In that moment, Carl Sanders could have killed young Franklin.

As though it weren't hard enough on him to have to witness a scene like that when he loved her the way he did, he had to be plagued with her thoughts, too. For Joyce was thinking—"He's so nice—I hope he does call me. I'd like to go out with a young man again."

It was miserable frustration in the weeks that followed, knowing that they were seeing each other, perhaps falling in love. Still he didn't give up hope. Franklin was young, superficial, immature. Joyce would surely have to see this after awhile. She'd come back to him, and they'd be married.

He could have gone on believing this way, if Joyce hadn't looked so happy one day when she returned from lunch with George.

"Carl," she said excitedly. "I have to tell you—it's something terribly important."

But he knew without her telling him.

"You're going to marry him, aren't you?" he said, and he could feel the anger surging in him at the unfairness of it all.

"Yes, I am, Carl. I love him very much."

The anger was too much for him to hold back. "What do you know about love," he cried. "What can he give you? I won't let you marry him, Joyce—you can't."

She moved back from him, the amazement clearly written on her face.

"Carl, what are you saying? You can't stop us from being married."

"Oh, can't I? Did you stop to think what you two will live on if I throw him out? And I will, if you attempt to marry him. I'll throw him out, and I'll smear him so badly, no one will ever give him a job in this profession."

"Carl," Joyce repeated. "Carl? What's happened to you?" And her thoughts were begging him. "Carl, don't make me hate you—don't make me pity you because you're acting like a jealous old man." He could have hit her for that.

"Get out," he screamed. "Get out. But you'll be back. You'll come back begging."

She ran out of the room as though she were in mortal danger.

From out his window he could see the fast growing darkness. He wanted to sob now—sob after her to forgive him, but he remembered her thoughts. He would make her pay.

He heard the door open, and he thought it was Joyce. He turned sharply. A young man stood there, framed from the light of the other room. In his hand he held a revolver.

"Put your hands up, Sanders," he said. "And walk over to the wall safe. I know you keep money in there and I want it all."

Sanders felt his rage growing again. To be confronted this way by a common hold-up punk. He started moving toward the safe, but the young man's thoughts stopped him. The young man was thinking, "I hope this guy doesn't realize this is my first job. I hope he can't tell how scared I am."

Sanders turned and moved quickly toward the man.

"Give me that gun," he shouted. "I'll teach you to bust into my home and try to hold me up." They struggled fiercely over the weapon. There was the loud report of a shot and Sanders slumped to the floor—his face contorted with surprise.

The young man looked at him for a long moment, and the revolver slipped out of his hand to the floor.

His face broke as he began to sob loudly.

"How did it happen?" he cried. "I THOUGHT the gun was empty."

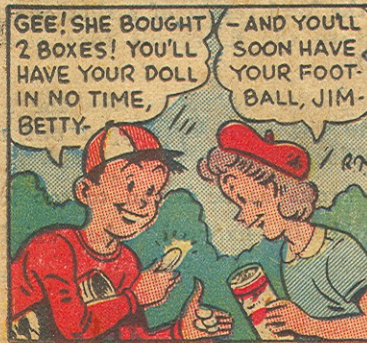


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BETTY FIND A NEW  
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LOOK!

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ACT NOW

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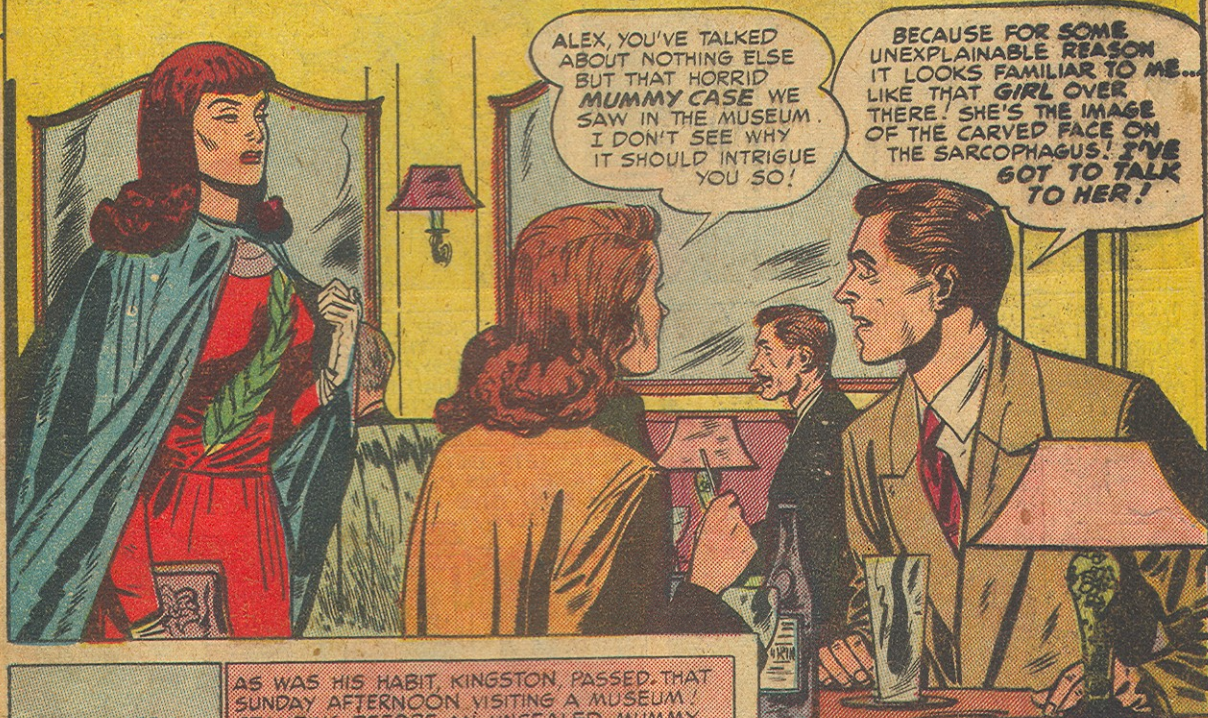
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# BLACK MAGIC

## I've Seen You Before!

The girl at the next table was hauntingly familiar! Alex knew he had seen her before. But that was in another age—another life!



ALEX, YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT NOTHING ELSE BUT THAT HORRID MUMMY CASE WE SAW IN THE MUSEUM. I DON'T SEE WHY IT SHOULD INTRIGUE YOU SO!

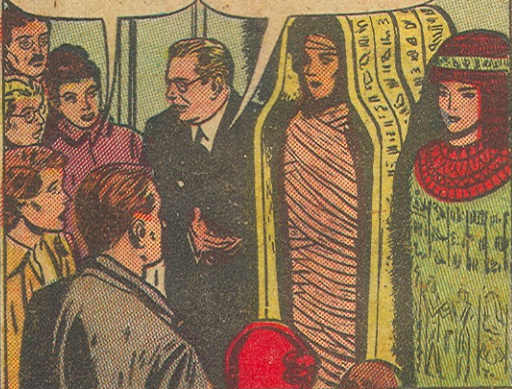
BECAUSE FOR SOME UNEXPLAINABLE REASON IT LOOKS FAMILIAR TO ME... LIKE THAT GIRL OVER THERE! SHE'S THE IMAGE OF THE CARVED FACE ON THE SARCOPHAGUS! I'VE GOT TO TALK TO HER!

IT IS WRITTEN IN THE ANCIENT SCRIPT OF EGYPT THAT **MAN** SHALL NEVER REST UNTIL HE **FULFILLS HIS DESTINY, THOUGH A MILLION YEARS MAY PASS BETWEEN!** ALEX KINGSTON, LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY, HAD NEVER HEARD OF THIS ANCIENT LAW AND YET HE WAS TRAGICALLY AFFECTED BY IT! PERHAPS YOU WILL SAY HE WAS THE FATAL VICTIM OF MADNESS—OR PERHAPS YOU WILL BELIEVE SUCH A LAW EXISTS FOR **MAN!** IT IS FOR YOU TO JUDGE!

AS WAS HIS HABIT, KINGSTON, PASSED THAT SUNDAY AFTERNOON VISITING A MUSEUM. STANDING BEFORE AN UNSEALED MUMMY CASE, IT SUDDENLY SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE ELABORATELY CARVED FIGURE OF AN EXTRAORDINARILY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WAS FAMILIAR TO HIM! HE WONDERED IF HE COULD HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE, BUT HE KNEW THE MUMMY HAD ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE.

I WONDER IF SHE WAS REALLY AS BEAUTIFUL AS THAT, ALEX?

MUCH MORE SO! NO STATUE COULD HAVE DONE HER JUSTICE!



KINGSTON LISTENED TO HIS OWN WORDS WITH AMAZEMENT! SOME INNER KNOWLEDGE HAD SPOKEN WITH HIS VOICE, AND ALEX KINGSTON KNEW IT WAS **TRUTH!** THE FIGURE, THE MUMMY CASE ITSELF WAS KNOWN TO HIM! MOVING WITH A STRANGE COMPULSION, HE FINGERED IT GOING OVER IT INCH BY INCH WITH SURE HANDS!

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THE CASE, YOUNG MAN--

WHOM THE GODS CREATE, THE GODS DESTROY. IN THE FORTIETH YEAR OF THE GLORIOUS PHAROAH AHKMENTHOTEP GIVEN TO HIM A DAUGHTER, WONDERFULLY BEAUTIFUL, WHOM HE NAMED **NAKOTRIS!**





# BLACK MAGIC

THAT'S ASTOUNDING! YOU TRANSLATED THOSE ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS PERFECTLY. I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY TWO MEN LIVING WHO COULD READ THAT!

I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME. BUT SUDDENLY IT WAS AS THOUGH IT WERE MY OWN LANGUAGE!



FOR ONE MOMENT, IT HAD BEEN THE LANGUAGE OF ALEX KINGSTON AS SURELY AS A MINUTE AGO HE HAD KNOWN OF THE BEAUTY OF THE PRINCESS NAKOTRIS... BUT HOW COULD HE EXPLAIN IT? HE WAS A SIMPLE MAN WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF EGYPTIAN HISTORY AND LORE...

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I COULD HAVE READ IT SOMEWHERE? PERHAPS I JUST FORGOT!

NO - THE INSCRIPTION HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED - THE MUMMY JUST ARRIVED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY... EXPEDITION DISCOVERED IT ABOUT A MONTH AGO! PECULIAR THING, WE'D GONE THROUGH THAT TOMB BEFORE AND COMPLETELY MISSED IT! IT WAS AS THOUGH SHE JUST APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE!



WELL MAYBE THIS HAS A PERFECTLY SIMPLE EXPLANATION AFTER ALL... MAYBE MY ANCESTORS WERE EGYPTIANS!

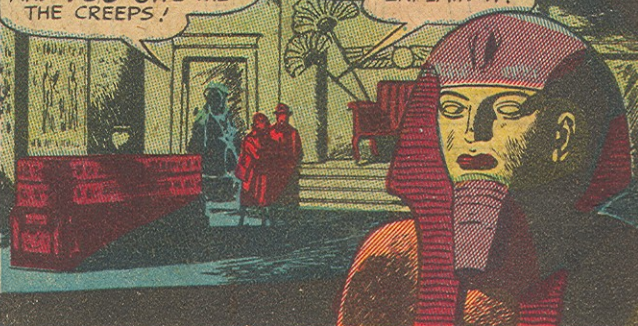
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK WHEN YOU HAVE SOME TIME? I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU SOME MORE!



KINGSTON LOOKED AROUND HIM, THE PECULIAR SENSATION STILL WITH HIM... THE ROOM WAS CONSTRUCTED TO RESEMBLE AN EGYPTIAN PALACE ROOM! IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD BEEN THERE, AND YET HE SOMEHOW FELT COMFORTABLE, AS THOUGH THE ENVIRONMENT WERE HIS OWN!

ALEX - LETS GET OUT OF HERE... THIS PLACE AND YOU GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

SORRY, LAURA, IT WAS SUCH A PECULIAR FEELING! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT!



FOR THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON, KINGSTON THOUGHT ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE MUSEUM! THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MORE VIVIDLY THE MUMMY CASE AND THE FIGURE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS STOOD OUT IN HIS MIND, UNTIL HE COULD VISUALIZE EACH DESIGN AND CONTOUR!

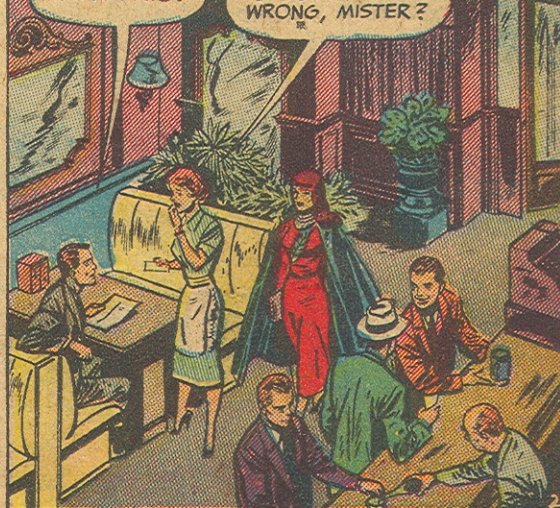
WHOM THE GODS CREATE, THE GODS DESTROY! A DAUGHTER, WONDROUSLY BEAUTIFUL, WHOM HE NAMED -

I'M WAITING FOR YOUR ORDER, MISTER!



NAKOTRIS!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISTER?





# BLACK MAGIC

KINGSTON STARED AT THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL WALKING TOWARD HIS TABLE. THE HEAVY SHADOWS CAST BY THE DIM LIGHTS PLAYED TRICKS WITH HIS EYES. FOR ONE MOMENT, THE GIRL ACROSS THE ROOM HAD LOOKED LIKE NAKOTRIS, THE PRINCESS OF 6,000 YEARS AGO. AND AS SHE APPROACHED HIS TABLE, KINGSTON WATCHED HER WITH A FEARFUL FASCINATION-- SAW THAT THE RESEMBLANCE DID NOT DIE IN THE FULL LIGHT.

EXCUSE ME...BUT YOU STARED AT ME SO. DO YOU REMEMBER ME FROM SOMEWHERE?

YES... AND NO! YOU-YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE I SAW TODAY--



FUNNY--- YOU ARE FAMILIAR TO ME ALSO! PERHAPS WE *DID* KNOW ONE ANOTHER BEFORE, AND YOU'VE FORGOTTEN!

I'M SORRY TO ACT SO STUPIDLY! PLEASE DON'T THINK ME A COMPLETE DUNCE, BUT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT A SHOCK I GOT SEEING YOU! AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!



THE GIRL TALKED EASILY TO KINGSTON, AND HE FELT HIMSELF RELAXING A LITTLE. IT HAD BEEN A TENSE DAY AND HIS IMAGINATION WAS OVERTAXED. THIS WAS A MODERN GIRL, WHO PERHAPS STRONGLY RESEMBLED AN ANCIENT PRINCESS. IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT. WHY THEN, DIDN'T HIS STRANGE FEAR OF HER LESSEN?

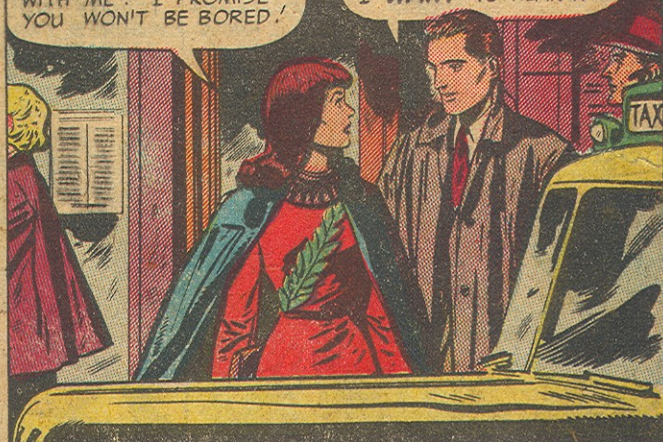
PERHAPS I UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN YOU DO! PERHAPS I CAN MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND TOO!

IS THERE SOME REAL MYSTERY HERE? I'VE JUST BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT'S COINCIDENCE-- THAT YOU AND THIS OTHER GIRL BOTH RESEMBLE SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW!



NO, IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT... I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT... YOU COME WITH ME! I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE BORED!

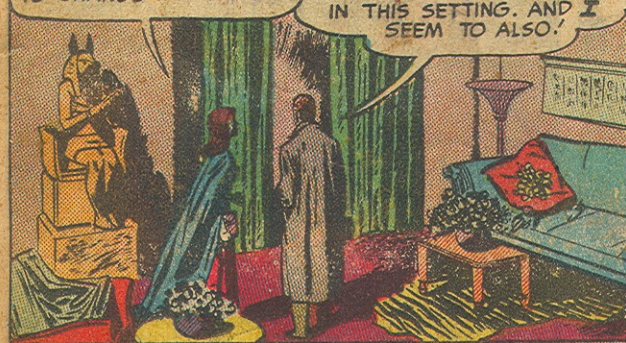
YES, I'LL COME! IF YOU'VE GOT A LOGICAL ANSWER TO ALL THIS, I WANT TO HEAR IT!



A STRANGE DAY, AND A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO PERHAPS HELD THE KEY TO ITS MYSTERY. KINGSTON KNEW HE MUST GO WITH HER OR HIS CONFUSED MIND WOULD TORMENT HIM. YET SOMETHING INSIDE HIM FOLLOWED HER WITH GREAT MISGIVINGS.

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE! I WANT TO CHANGE MY THINGS.

SOMEHOW THIS APARTMENT IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE VISUALIZED IT TO BE! YOU *BELONG* IN THIS SETTING. AND I SEEM TO ALSO!



WHILE SHE WAS GONE, KINGSTON EXAMINED THE LUXURIOUS FURNISHINGS OF THE APARTMENT, THE LOVELY ANTIQUE ART OBJECTS... AND EVEN WITH HIS UNTRAINED EYE HE KNEW THEM TO BE GENUINE! THE VOICE OF THE GIRL BEHIND HIM TURNED HIM SWIFTLY AROUND, AND THE NAME SLIPPED FROM HIS LIPS!

NAKOTRIS!

NAKOTRIS-- YOU CALL ME BY THAT NAME? SHE WAS A PRINCESS, WASN'T SHE, OF MANY THOUSAND YEARS AGO?





# BLACK MAGIC

KINGSTON SUDDENLY KNEW THE TERROR OF CONTACT WITH THE BLACK TENDRILS OF THE UDEFINABLE THOUGHT IMAGES, BOTH ALIEN AND FAMILIAR... KINGSTON HAD HEARD ABOUT RACIAL MEMORY, BUT HAD NEVER GIVEN IT ANY SERIOUS ATTENTION... **NOW IN THE STRANGE ATMOSPHERE OF THE GIRL'S ROOMS - WHICH SOMEHOW SEEMED NATIVE TO HIM... ALEX KINGSTON BEGAN TO WONDER!**

THESE SURROUNDINGS SEEM TO DISTURB YOU! I FEEL PERFECTLY AT HOME IN THIS SETTING!

THAT'S JUST IT! SO DO I! FOR **SOME** REASON, I FIND EVERYTHING ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AS COMMON TO ME AS HAM AND EGGS!

THE OTHER GIRL... THE ONE YOU SAW TODAY! TELL ME ABOUT HER!

SHE WAS JUST A BOUND MUMMY... EXHUMED FROM THE DUST OF EGYPT! BUT HER SCULPTURED IMAGE ON THE MUMMY CASE... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CAST OF... OF **YOUR** FACE! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU BY HER NAME... **NAKOTRIS!** I... I WAS ABLE TO READ IT!



DO YOU REALLY FIND IT SO STRANGE, ALEX KINGSTON? **IS IT STRANGE FOR A MAN TO READ ANCIENT WORDS... INSCRIBED BY HIS OWN HANDS?** YES, YOU WROTE THEM... BUT YOU WERE **ARAHMES THEN...** ARAHMES...

**ARAHMES?** I... I KNOW THAT NAME, BUT HOW...

HER VOICE WAS A LOW HYPNOTIC DRONE WHICH FLOWED OUT TO HIM... AND FILLED HIM WITH A GREAT WEARINESS! ACROSS VAST DISTANCES A FAINT LIGHT GLOWED WITH BRIGHTER INTENSITY UNTIL IT ILLUMINATED KINGSTON'S BRAIN! HAZY FIGURES SWAM INTO SHARPER FOCUS... FIGURES IN THE BARBARIC DRESS OF AN AGE LONG DEAD... SPEAKING WORDS IN THE VOICES OF THE LIVING!

REMEMBER, ARAHMES... REMEMBER?



KINGSTON NOT ONLY REMEMBERED... HE **KNEW!** HOW COULD ONE FORGET THE SPLENDOR OF THE ROYAL CHAMBER... THE BEAUTY OF THE YOUNG PRINCESS WHO HAD SENT FOR HIM... **NAKOTRIS... DAUGHTER OF THE LORD OF EGYPT!**

ARISE, ARAHMES... I AM WELL PLEASED WITH THE CASE! I SHALL KEEP IT BESIDE ME UNTIL THE DAY MY SOUL ENTERS THE LAND OF THE SHADOWS!

I AM GRATEFUL, OH NAKOTRIS! NOW THAT MY WORK IS FINISHED, IS THERE NO OTHER WAY I CAN SERVE YOU?

FOR ONE SO LOWLY BORN, ARAHMES, I MUST ADMIT THE GODS HAVE MADE YOU WORTHY OF MY INTEREST... I SHALL SEND FOR YOU... WHEN THE MOON GROWS FULL IN THE NIGHT SKY!

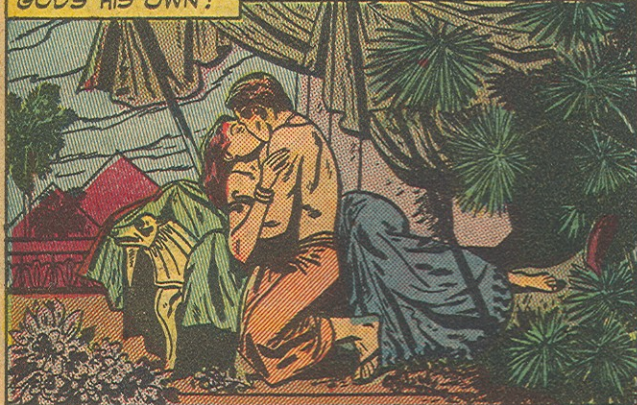
ALL ELSE SHALL CEASE TO EXIST UNTIL I AM SUMMONED!





# BLACK MAGIC

ARAHMES WAS LED TO THE PRINCESS THAT VERY EVENING! AND HE RETURNED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO THE JOY HE FOUND IN HER ARMS... NEVER HAD HE KNOWN A LOVE SUCH AS THIS... OR A LOVE MORE FUTILE! FOR ARAHMES KNEW WELL THAT A COMMONER COULD NEVER HOPE TO MAKE A DAUGHTER OF THE GODS HIS OWN!



AND ARAHMES DREADED THE DAY WHEN THE PRINCESS WOULD SUMMON HIM FOR THE LAST TIME... ON THAT DAY SHE WOULD DISPOSE OF HIM! IT WAS HER PRIVILEGE AS A PRINCESS! IT WAS TRADITION THAT ARAHMES SHOULD DIE IN EXCHANGE FOR HER KISSES... ARAHMES WAS NOT HAPPY WHEN THE HOUR FINALLY ARRIVED...

THE PRINCESS AWAITS YOU, ARAHMES! DO NOT TAX HER PATIENCE!

SHE HAS GROWN COOL TO ME OF LATE... I KNOW WHAT LIES IN STORE... HOW DESTINY HAS TOYED WITH ME!



MUST YOU GO TO YOUR FATE LIKE A QUAKING RABBIT, ARAHMES? I HAVE SHOWN YOU DIVINE FAVOR, YOUR LIFE IS POOR PAYMENT FOR SUCH AN HONOR! SEIZE HIM, GUARD!

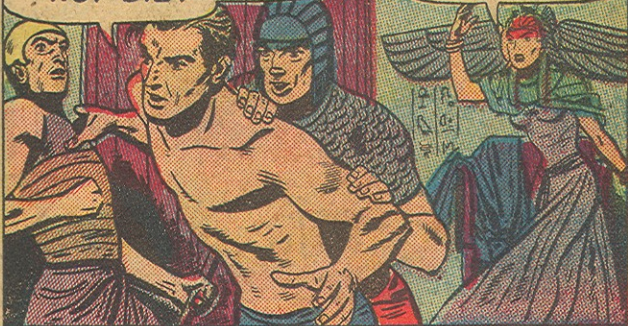
I BEG YOU TO LET ME GO MY WAY IN PEACE, O NOBLE DAUGHTER OF THE GODS!



ALTHOUGH ARAHMES WAS A LOYAL SUBJECT OF HIS SOVEREIGN AND A TRUE BELIEVER IN THE DICTATES OF THE ANCIENT GODS, HE DID NOT RELISH AN UNTIMELY DEATH... BREAKING FREE FROM HIS GUARDS, ARAHMES MADE A DESPERATE DASH FOR FREEDOM!

I WILL NOT BE LED OFF LIKE A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER! I SHALL NOT DIE! I SHALL NOT DIE!

AFTER HIM, YOU IDIOTS... IT'S HIS LIFE OR YOURS!



BUT ARAHMES ELUDED THE SOLDIERS... HID FROM THE WRATH OF HIS GODS... AND NEVER PAID FOR HIS BLASPHEMY...

FIND HIM! FIND HIM! THIS MAY MEAN OUR HEADS!

BETTER THEIR HEADS THAN MINE! IF FORTUNE IS WITH ME, I SHALL LEAVE EGYPT THIS DAY... AND NEVER BE SEEN HERE AGAIN!



WHAT A FOOL YOU WERE TO THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE YOUR FATE, ARAHMES! LO, THE SPLENDOR OF EGYPT IS DUST THESE MANY CENTURIES HER GODS ARE NOT DEAD... THEIR POWERS ARE GREATER THAN TIME ITSELF! AND THE SEARCH FOR YOUR WHEREABOUTS HAS NEVER SLACKENED... YOU HAVE LIVED IN MANY LIFE-TIMES, ARAHMES! BUT IN THIS ONE YOU ARE CAUGHT!





# BLACK MAGIC

KINGSTON AROSE FROM HIS TRANCE WITH A START; HIS BROW WAS MOIST; AND A STEEL BAND OF FEAR WAS CONSTRICTING HIS HEART! SOMEHOW, HE KNEW HE HADN'T BEEN DREAMING THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY RELIVED AN EPISODE FROM A PAST LIFE... **THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO PAY THE PRICE OF A CODE WRITTEN IN ANTIQUITY!**

YOU REMEMBER NOW, FOOLISH ARAHMES! I CAN SEE THAT YOU DO!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I'M NOT THIS ARAHMES! MY NAME IS KINGSTON! AND I WON'T BE A FALL GUY FOR YOUR FANTASTIC GAME!



GAZE UPON THIS RING, ARAHMES! THE ANCIENT WORLD ONCE BOWED TO ITS CREST! IS THIS STILL A GAME?

THE RING MEANS NOTHING TO ME! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME SWALLOW THIS TRIPE! MAYBE YOU DID LIVE FOR CENTURIES! BUT I WAS BORN THIRTY YEARS AGO! FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME!



HORROR SWEEPED OVER KINGSTON IN WAVES! THE RING HAD BORNE THE SCARAB OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF AHKMENTHOTEP PHARAOH OF ALL EGYPT! AND THESE PEOPLE WERE AWARE THAT HE RECOGNIZED IT! AWARE THAT HE KNEW HE WAS ARAHMES! IT WAS TOO LATE TO RUN!

LET ME GO! LET ME GO!

YOU WILL NOT DENY THE GODS THIS TIME, ARAHMES! YOU WILL MEET YOUR FATE AS IT WAS WRITTEN... MY TASK IS DONE, AND I AM WEARY... WEARY...



BUT KINGSTON DID NOT HEAR HER WORDS! HE WAS MERCIFULLY UNCONSCIOUS WHEN HE WAS CARRIED OFF TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, TO AN UNGUESSEABLE DOOM!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE CURATORS IN CHARGE OF EXAMINING THE MUMMY OF PRINCESS NAKOTRIS WERE SHOCKED TO A MAN! THEY FOUND THE ANCIENT SARCOPHAGUS OPEN... AND THE MUMMY GONE... A FEW DECAYING WRAPPINGS WERE THE ONLY EVIDENCE THAT THE MUMMY EVER EXISTED!

THAT'S THE WAY I FOUND IT, SIR! OPEN! WITH THAT SMALL HEAP OF RAGS AT THE BOTTOM!

PRINCESS NAKOTRIS! VANISHED! WHAT KIND OF VANDALISM IS THIS? TO DESTROY A MUMMY THAT MIGHT HAVE TOLD US MUCH OF THE HISTORY OF THAT PERIOD! EVERYTHING... GONE!



NOT QUITE EVERYTHING, SIR! I ALSO FOUND THIS RING!

IT WAS ON THE MUMMY'S FINGER! THE ROYAL SCARAB OF AHKMENTHOTEP!

THE STORY ENDS HERE! PERHAPS AS THE CURATOR BELIEVED, ORDINARY MEN DESTROYED THE EARTHLY REMAINS OF THE PRINCESS... OR PERHAPS SHE HAD FULFILLED HER TASK, AND THUS WAS ALLOWED FINAL REST! WHO WILL VENTURE AN OPINION?





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# BLACK MAGIC

## YESTERDAY YOU DIED!

IT'S A DREAM!  
THERE'S NO ONE  
THERE! NO  
ONE! THERE  
CAN'T BE!



PERHAPS THERE IS SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO GRACE HANLEY! CERTAINLY, IF THERE IS, IT MIGHT SAVE HER TOTTERING SANITY! FOR GRACE HANLEY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED, THAT DAY-- AND SHE KNOWS HOW IT MUST END! YET IT ALL BEGAN SO SIMPLY...

I'M CERTAIN YOU'D LIKE THE HOUSE, MRS. HANLEY.. UN- FORTUNATELY, I'M ALONE AT THE MOMENT, BUT IF YOU CARE TO WAIT, I CAN DRIVE YOU OUT LATER!

OH, THAT'S A NUISANCE! I WAS HOPING--YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND IS IN AFRICA ON A HUNTING TRIP.. I WAS HOPING TO FIND A HOUSE BEFORE HE CAME HOME-- SORT OF A SURPRISE!

I SEE. STILL, MY SECRETARY SHOULD BE BACK WITHIN THE HOUR --

I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- MY HUSBAND WILL BE HOME TONIGHT! I HAVE TO MEET HIM AT THE DOCK AND-- OH, BROTHER!

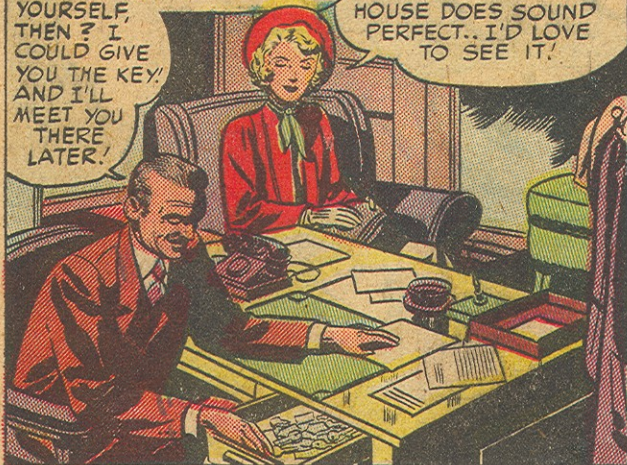




# BLACK MAGIC

I CAN SEE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME-- WHY NOT GO OUT TO THE HOUSE YOURSELF, THEN? I COULD GIVE YOU THE KEY! AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER!

THAT WOULD SOLVE THE DIFFICULTY, WOULDN'T IT? THE HOUSE DOES SOUND PERFECT.. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT!

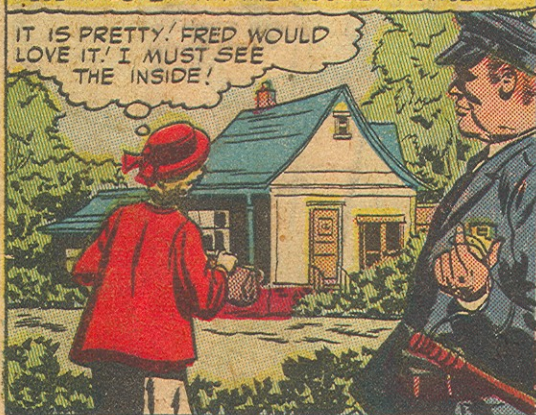


VERY WELL, THEN, WE'LL DO IT THAT WAY! THE ADDRESS IS TWELVE CLARK. YOU CAN'T MISS IT! IT'S A BIG PLACE, BEEN EMPTY FOR ALMOST A YEAR! AND I'LL JOIN YOU LATER!



IN A QUIET, PEACEFUL LONG ISLAND SUBURB ON A BRIGHT, PLEASANT DAY IN APRIL, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN? MYSTERY, DANGER--THESE LURK IN THE DARK! GRACE HANLEY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE HOUSE AT ONCE!

IT IS PRETTY! FRED WOULD LOVE IT! I MUST SEE THE INSIDE!

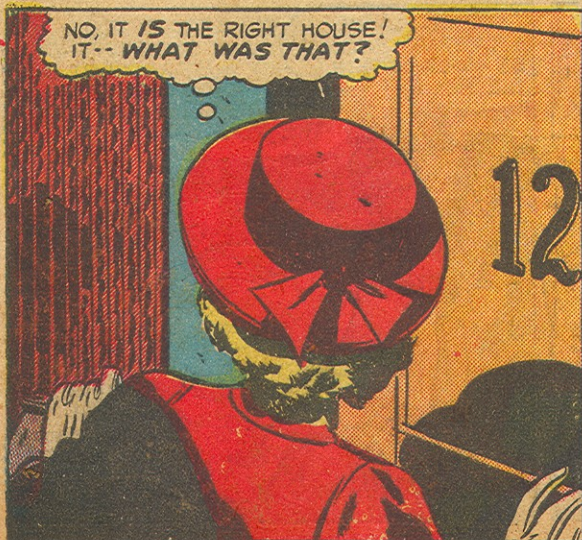


UP TO THAT MOMENT THE WORLD WAS A LOVELY PLACE FOR GRACE HANLEY! SHE WAS YOUNG, WELL TO DO--AND THE MAN SHE LOVED WAS COMING HOME! THEN IN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE HEARTBEAT, SHE STEPPED INTO A WORLD OF HORROR!

THIS WIERD FURNITURE THE AFRICAN DEATH MASKS-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! HE SAID THE PLACE HADN'T BEEN LIVED IN FOR A YEAR... UNLESS--



NO, IT IS THE RIGHT HOUSE! IT-- WHAT WAS THAT?



SOMETHING BEHIND THAT SHIMMERING CURTAIN HAD MOVED! IN GRACE HANLEY'S HEART THE BEGINNING OF FEAR WRESTLED WITH FEMININE CURIOSITY--AND CURIOSITY WON!





# BLACK MAGIC



GRACE HANLEY TRIED TO SCREAM! THE CORDS WRITHED AND KNOTTED IN HER THROAT! BUT NO SOUND CAME! PARALYZED WITH HORROR SHE COULD ONLY STARE!

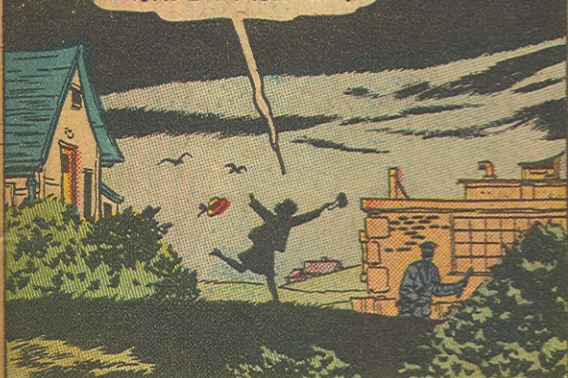


NO!



THE SCREAMS CAME THEN! THEY WELLED FROM GRACE HANLEY'S TORTURED THROAT IN RAPID SUCCESSION AS SHE RAN FROM THAT ACCURSED HOUSE!

**MURDER! MURDER!**



THE WORD ROSE IN A SHRIEK--CRUDE, INCONGRUOUS ON THAT QUIET AIR! THE OFFICER WHO SO QUICKLY REACHED HER SIDE FOUND A WOMAN HALF MAD WITH TERROR!

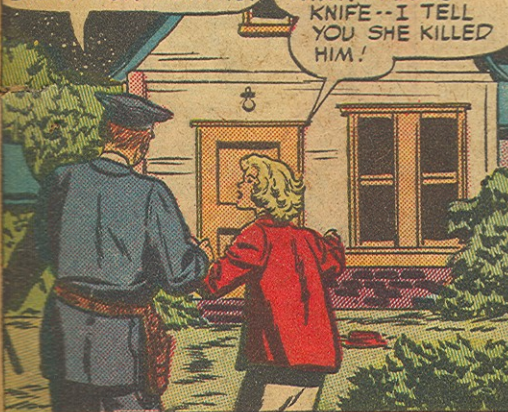
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT MURDER? WHO'S BEEN MURDERED?

I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW! IN THERE! SHE KILLED HIM! I SAW IT!



IN THERE? BUT NO ONE LIVES THERE! I KNOW THE PLACE--IT'S BEEN EMPTY FOR MONTHS!

NO! I SAW THEM! SHE KILLED HIM! SHE STABBED HIM! A LONG KNIFE--I TELL YOU SHE KILLED HIM!



MURDER IS AN UGLY WORD! HUMAN BEINGS DO NOT USE IT LIGHTLY.. DESPITE HIS DOUBTS THE OFFICER WENT TO THAT EMPTY, FORBIDDING DOORWAY--AND GRACE HANLEY WENT WITH HIM...

MURDER, IS IT?

BUT I--I SAW THEM! IN THERE! THERE--THERE WAS A CURTAIN, MASKS, FURNITURE...





# BLACK MAGIC

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING AN ATTACK OF IMAGINATION, LADY! THIS PLACE IS EMPTY!

BUT... IT WASN'T IMAGINATION! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN!

MRS. HANLEY! THOSE PEOPLE OUTSIDE... THEY SAY THERE'S BEEN A MURDER!

IF THERE HAS BEEN, IT'S THE SLICKEST DISAPPEARING ACT I EVER SAW! THE LADY'S BEEN SEEING THINGS!

MR. BALLARD, I DID SEE SOMETHING, BUT I DIDN'T IMAGINE IT! I SAW MURDER! RIGHT THERE... IN THAT ROOM! THERE WERE PEOPLE HERE, THERE WERE!



WHEN TWO SANE, SENSIBLE MEN TELL YOU THAT WHAT YOU SAW WAS IMPOSSIBLE--WHEN YOU BEGIN TO DOUBT YOUR OWN SENSES--IT IS FUTILE TO ARGUE...

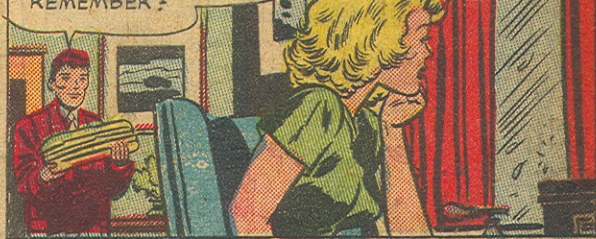
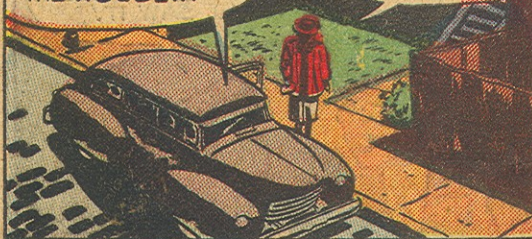
IT WAS A FORTUNATE THING FOR GRACE HANLEY'S SANITY THAT SHE HAD MUCH TO DO THAT DAY! IT KEPT HER FROM THINKING! BUT DAY MUST PASS...

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT AFTER A LITTLE REST, MRS. HANLEY! OUR NERVES PLAY ALL OF US TRICKS ONCE IN A WHILE... ABOUT THE HOUSE...

I DON'T WANT IT! I... I NEVER WANT TO SEE OR HEAR ABOUT THAT HOUSE AGAIN! I'M SORRY, MR. BALLARD!

HEY! NEVER SEEN SUCH A RAINSTORM BEFORE! HOW ABOUT HELPING A GUY UNPACK? YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL LIKE A MAN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT! I JUST GOT HOME! REMEMBER?

I... I'M SORRY, FRED! I GUESS I HAVEN'T BEEN ACTING VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU!



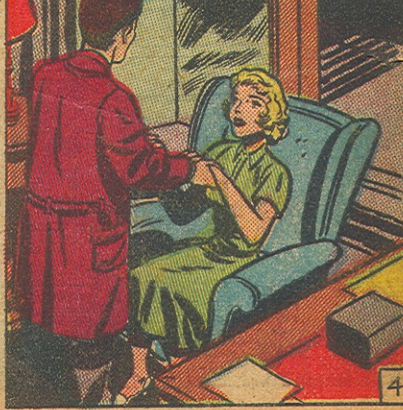
NO, YOU HAVEN'T! WHAT IS IT, GRACE? ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT? I'M A VERY GOOD LISTENER, YOU KNOW!

FRED, I-- YES! I DO WANT TO TELL YOU! I'VE GOT TO TELL SOMEONE! SOMEONE WHO'LL BELIEVE ME!

WHEW! IT'S QUITE A STORY, HONEY! BUT BALLARD AND THE COP WERE RIGHT! DON'T YOU SEE THAT? IT HAD TO BE IMAGINATION! MY ADVICE WOULD BE-- FORGET IT!

THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF! BUT IT WAS SO REAL!

HONEY, I'VE GOT JUST THE MEDICINE TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF ALL THAT! YOU CAN HELP ME UNPACK!





# BLACK MAGIC

FOR A MIND SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION, WHAT MEDICINE CAN BE BETTER THAN THE DOING OF EVERYDAY, PROSAIC THINGS! GRACE HANLEY WAS ALMOST HAPPY AS SHE HELPED HER HUSBAND UNPACK...

FRED! WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING?

THIS? JUST A SOUVENIR, HONEY! IT'S A ZULU SACRIFICIAL KNIFE! IT OUGHT TO LOOK GOOD HANGING ON THE WALL!



GET RID OF IT! TH... THAT'S THE KNIFE I SAW THIS AFTERNOON!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, HONEY...



IT IS! IT IS! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! FRED, YOU'VE GOT TO GET RID OF IT!

TAKE IT EASY, GRACE! IT'S ONLY... OKAY! IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER I'LL GET RID OF IT IN THE MORNING. THAT CURIO SHOP ON HIGH STREET WILL BE GLAD TO BUY IT/FEEL BETTER?



FEEL BETTER? WHEN YOU BEGIN TO DOUBT YOUR OWN SENSES? WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN... AND DARE NOT BELIEVE IT? IT TAKES TIME... LOTS OF TIME!

BETTER HURRY! GOT ENOUGH SAY, I'D WORK PILED UP DOWN AT THE OFFICE TO CHOKO A HORSE! ALL WORK AND NO PLAY! AND THAT REMINDS ME, WE'RE GOING OUT, TONIGHT, HONEY!

OUT? I... I'D RATHER NOT, FRED... THESE LAST FEW WEEKS...



I KNOW! THAT'S JUST WHY I ACCEPTED THE INVITATION! IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW... OR THOUGHT YOU SAW, YOUNG LADY! REMEMBER, BEST BIB AND TUCKER! THE BAKERS ARE TOSsing A PARTY AND WE'RE GOING!

ALL RIGHT, FRED!



TO BE WELL DRESSED, ATTRACTIVE... THESE ARE THE NORMAL THINGS IN LIFE FOR A WOMAN... IN THE LAUGHTER AND GAYETY OF THAT NIGHTS PARTY GRACE HANLEY FORGOT!

GRACE! SO THERE YOU ARE! COME ALONG... YOU AND FRED HAVEN'T EVEN MET OUR GUEST OF HONOR YET!

MM-M! WAIT TILL YOU DO, GRACE! A MAN LIKE THAT WOULD BE A BACHELOR!

WHY NOT, THE MAN'S AN ARCHEOLOGIST! WHAT WOMAN WANTS TO GO TRAIPIING OFF TO A LOT OF JUNGLES AND WHAT NOT!



GRACE HANLEY HAD FORGOTTEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE... BUT THE PATTERN WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE!

MR. STEPHEN ABBOTT... MR. AND MRS. HANLEY...

YOU!

HOW... I BEG YOUR PARDON?

GRACE! WHAT ON EARTH... YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MRS. HANLEY, SIR... SHE... SHE HASN'T BEEN HERSELF, LATELY!





# BLACK MAGIC

"SOMEHOW, GRACE HANLEY OVERCAME THE MOMENT! THIS MAN, WHOSE DEATH SHE HAD WITNESSED IN THE OLD HOUSE WAS **ALIVE** AND WELL...

"HOW COULD GRACE HELP BUT GASP WHEN SHE TURNED, FOLLOWING THE DIRECTION OF STEPHEN ABBOTT'S STARE ...

YOU DON'T THINK SO, MRS. HANLEY?

SHE ... SHE'S BRINGING HER OVER HERE! TO MEET YOU! BUT SHE MUSTN'T!

YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, WON'T YOU, MR. ABBOTT, JUST FOR AN INSTANT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE I HAD MET BEFORE!

OF COURSE! I IMAGINE WE ALL HAVE DOUBLES! ALL, BUT...

NOW THERE'S A WOMAN WHO COULDN'T HAVE A DOUBLE! SHE'S LOVELY!

NO! NO!

"GRACE HANLEY KNEW, NOW, THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE! THESE TWO HAD TO MEET, BUT HER EFFORTS WERE FUTILE ...

FRED! TAKE ME HOME!

SURE, HONEY! I'M SORRY, MRS. BAKER... I'M AFRAID GRACE ISN'T WELL! I THINK WE'D BETTER LEAVE!

OF COURSE! I AM SORRY!

WHY, GRACE, YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SAID HELLO TO RUTH! ARE YOU ILL?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE INTRODUCED THEM!

GRACE! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!

"WHO CAN BLAME FRED HANLEY IF HE DROVE HOME IN SILENT, WORRIED CONCERN! AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM IF HIS SOLICITOUSNESS TURNED, AFTER A WHILE, TO ANGER!

FRED, THEY WERE THE PEOPLE FROM THE HOUSE! STEPHEN ABBOTT AND RUTH SHAW ARE THE PEOPLE I SAW IN THAT LITTLE ROOM! I SAW HER KILL HIM!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, GRACE! NOT THAT AGAIN!

TAKE IT EASY, HONEY! I'LL HAVE THE DOCTOR HERE IN A JIFFY! IT WAS STUPID OF ME TO MAKE YOU GO TO THAT PARTY WHEN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WELL!

I ... I'M NOT ILL...





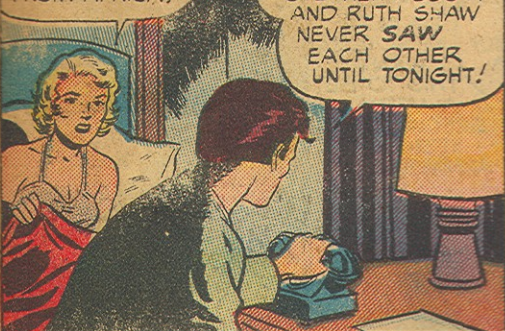
# BLACK MAGIC

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME! BUT IT'S TRUE! I SAW RUTH SHAW MURDER STEPHEN ABBOTT WITH THE KNIFE YOU BROUGHT FROM AFRICA!

NOW, SEE HERE, GRACE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE! OF COURSE I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! STEPHEN ABBOTT AND RUTH SHAW NEVER SAW EACH OTHER UNTIL TONIGHT!

BUT DON'T YOU SEE? NOW THEY DO KNOW EACH OTHER! THEY'VE MET, FRED... ONE DAY SHE'LL KILL HIM! JUST AS I SAW IT HAPPEN!

SURE! IN A HOUSE NEITHER OF THEM EVER WAS IN, WITH A KNIFE NEITHER OF THEM KNOWS EXISTS! **BE REASONABLE, GRACE! YOUR IMAGINATIONS GONE HAY-WIRE!**



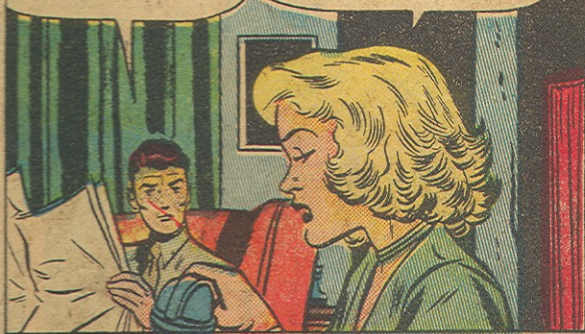
I'M SORRY, HONEY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BLOW UP LIKE THAT! BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU! DON'T YOU SEE HOW RIDICULOUS THIS ALL IS?

MURDER ISN'T... RIDICULOUS, FRED! FRED, HOW... HOW DO YOU PREVENT A MURDER... THAT **MUST** HAPPEN?

TIME AFTER TIME, IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, GRACE TRIED TO REACH STEPHEN ABBOTT... TO WARN HIM! BUT STEPHEN ABBOTT WAS A BUSY MAN!

GRACE, YOU AREN'T GOING TO TRY TO GET ABBOTT AGAIN?

I MUST, FRED! I **MUST!** A MAN'S LIFE IS IN MY HANDS! IF I COULD ONLY **TALK** TO HIM!



BUT CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S AVOIDING YOU! AFTER THAT SCENE AT THE BAKER'S I CAN'T SAY THAT I BLAME HIM!

I KNOW! BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY! I CAN'T JUST LET IT HAPPEN, FRED! I'VE GOT TO TRY!

FRED HANLEY LOVED HIS WIFE! WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MUST HAVE COST HIM TO WATCH HER HAGGARD, TIRED FACE? BUT THIS TIME, SUDDENLY, THAT WAN TIED FACE CHANGED!

FRED, HE'S GONE! THAT WAS THE DESK CLERK! STEPHEN ABBOTT HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY! HE'S AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, FRED! THAT MEANS HE'LL BE GONE FOR...

IT MEANS A MAN CAN'T BE KILLED IN LONG ISLAND WHEN HE'S IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD!

FRED, I FEEL AS IF... AS IF I'D BEEN A PRISONER AND THEN SUDDENLY BEEN RELEASED! HE'S SAFE! **SAFE!** I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP AGAIN, FRED! IT WAS ALL A DREAM! A HORRIBLE DREAM! AND NOW IT'S OVER! THANK HEAVEN!





# BLACK MAGIC

FROM THAT DAY ON GRACE WAS ALIVE AGAIN! THE CREEPING HORROR WAS GONE! IT TOOK TIME, BUT ONE DAY, WHAT SHE HAD SEEN WAS ONLY A MEMORY...

BET YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHAT DAY THIS IS, HONEY?

OF COURSE I DO! OUR SIXTH ANNIVERSARY! YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME, FRED HANLEY! YOU'RE REMINDING ME TO GET YOU A GIFT. WELL YOU NEEDN'T WORRY! I WILL!

HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO BE A NORMAL HUMAN IN A NORMAL WORLD! A WORLD IN WHICH GIFTS, ANNIVERSARIES...NOT MURDER, ARE THE STUFF OF LIFE!

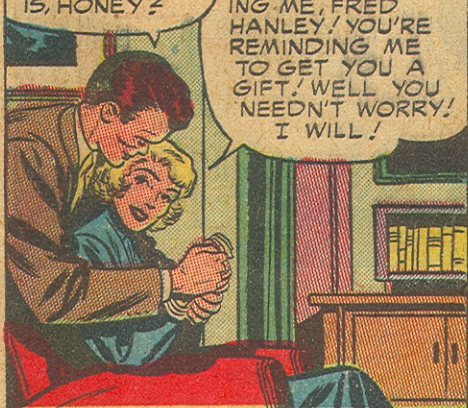
IT IS AN ODD RING...PROBABLY EGYPTIAN! I'M SURE YOUR HUSBAND WOULD LIKE IT, MRS. HANLEY!

I'M SURE HE WOULD! I WANT THIS TO BE A VERY SPECIAL GIFT! IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!

THEN THE RING WILL BE JUST THE THING! MRS. HANLEY! I

THOUGHT IT WAS YOU, BUT I WASN'T SURE UNTIL I HEARD YOUR NAME!

RUTH! RUTH SHAW!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?

WHY...I JUST PICKED THIS OUT, A GIFT FOR MY HUSBAND!

THERE'S A COINCIDENCE FOR YOU, MRS. HANLEY! THAT'S THE VERY KNIFE YOUR HUSBAND SOLD ME!

WHAT IS TO BE...MUST BE! IN THAT MOMENT GRACE HANLEY KNEW THE UTTER FUTILITY OF INTERFERING IN THINGS THAT WERE TOO DARK FOR HER MIND TO GRASP! YET THE WORDS CAME OF THEMSELVES...

YOU...YOU AND STEPHEN ABBOTT...

WILL YOU WRAP THIS, FOR ME, PLEASE, MR. RAUCH? WHY YES, MRS. HANLEY! I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW! STEVE AND I WERE MARRIED MONTHS AGO! WE'VE BEEN AWAY ON OUR HONEY-MOON!



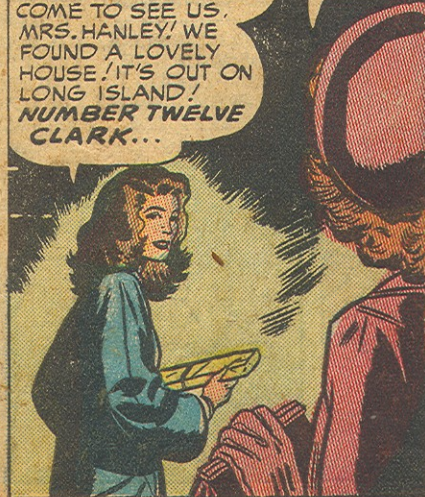
THERE YOU ARE, MRS. ABBOTT!

NO, I...I DIDN'T KNOW!

WHY, OF COURSE, MRS. HANLEY! IT'S ODD THAT YOU SHOULDN'T KNOW! IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER THAT NIGHT, REMEMBER?

AND NOW, I REALLY MUST RUN! YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND MUST COME TO SEE US. MRS. HANLEY! WE FOUND A LOVELY HOUSE! IT'S OUT ON LONG ISLAND! NUMBER TWELVE CLARK...

YES, YES... I KNOW...



IN A HOUSE ON LONG ISLAND TWO PEOPLE ARE LIVING TOGETHER... THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET, THE PLAYERS HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACES! ONE DAY IN A HOUSE SO ODDLY FURNISHED... THE HOUSE OF MASKS, SPEARS... THE LAST ACT WILL BE PLAYED! IT **MUST** BE!



# Do Men Choose



MARY



ALICE

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over the  
world.

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.  
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.  
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.

R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.  
I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff!  
W. T. W., Portola, Cal.  
I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.  
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

### Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but **Double Your Money Back** unless you actually **SEE, FEEL and ENJOY** all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion or the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

Ward Laboratories, Inc.

SEAL

© 1949

**ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!**

Ward Laboratories, Inc.,  
11430 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y., Dept. 8-K  
Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you **GUARANTEE** refund of **DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK** upon return of bottle and unused portion.

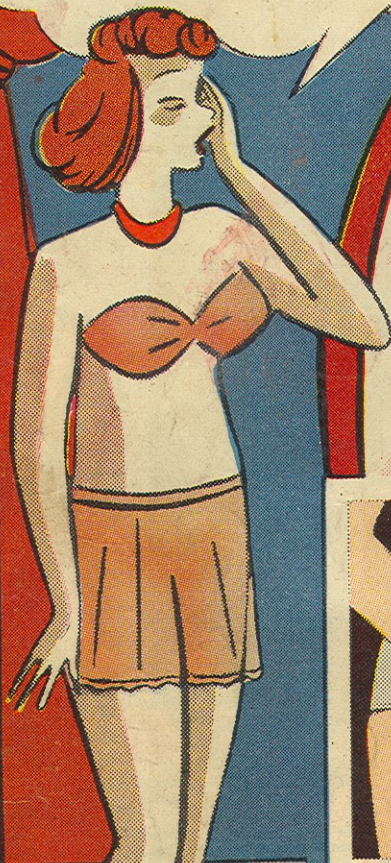
Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... Zone ..... State .....

☐ Check here if you enclose \$2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 25c; no CODs.

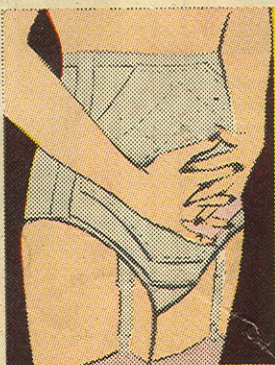
**DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**



LET'S FACE IT...  
YOU NEED A  
TUMMY-FLATTENER!



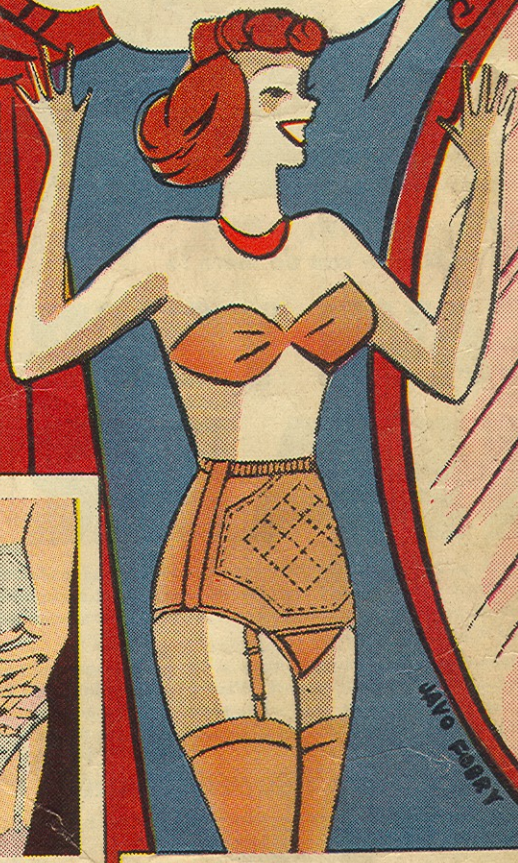
**BEFORE** Sagging muscles, bumps and bulges. Clothes looked awful. Nothing seemed to fit right. Couldn't wear any of the new styles.



**INTERLOCKING HANDS  
OF FIRM SUPPORT\***

Test how you'll feel wearing the TUMMY-FLATTENER this way: clasp hands across abdomen as shown and press up and in. Feel good? That's how you'll feel when you put on the TUMMY-FLATTENER.

WHEE!...  
WHAT A DIFFERENCE!  
THIS REALLY  
TAKES ME IN!



**AFTER** Protruding stomach pushed back in. Front level. Waist line evened out. Superfluous "tummy roll" neatly tucked away. Clothes fit swell. Also ideal under slacks, play shorts and swim trunks. Complete with detachable garters, changeable crotch piece.

**PERFECT UNDER SLACKS, PLAY SHORTS AND BATHING SUITS**

**10 DAY TRIAL OFFER!**

**SEND NO MONEY!**

Convince yourself! See the difference with your own eyes. Try TUMMY-FLATTENER at our expense. If you're not delighted with the immediate results, return in 10 days for immediate refund. TUMMY-FLATTENER sent by Return Mail. Don't wait another minute. Mail coupon TODAY! NOW!

\*T.M. Reg. U.S. Pat. Office

**NOW  
to You  
ONLY  
\$2.98**

WARD GREEN CO., Dept. R12  
113 West 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.  
Rush TUMMY-FLATTENER in Plain Wrapper ON APPROVAL by Return Mail. I'll pay postman \$2.98 plus postage. If not thrilled and delighted with the immediate results, I may return it in 10 days for immediate refund. (Extra Large Size, 37 and up, \$3.98) (Extra crotch pieces, 50¢ each)  
WAIST MEASURE .....  
NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
CITY ..... ZONE ..... STATE .....  
☐ I enclose \$2.98 (or \$3.98 for size 37 and up). You pay postage.